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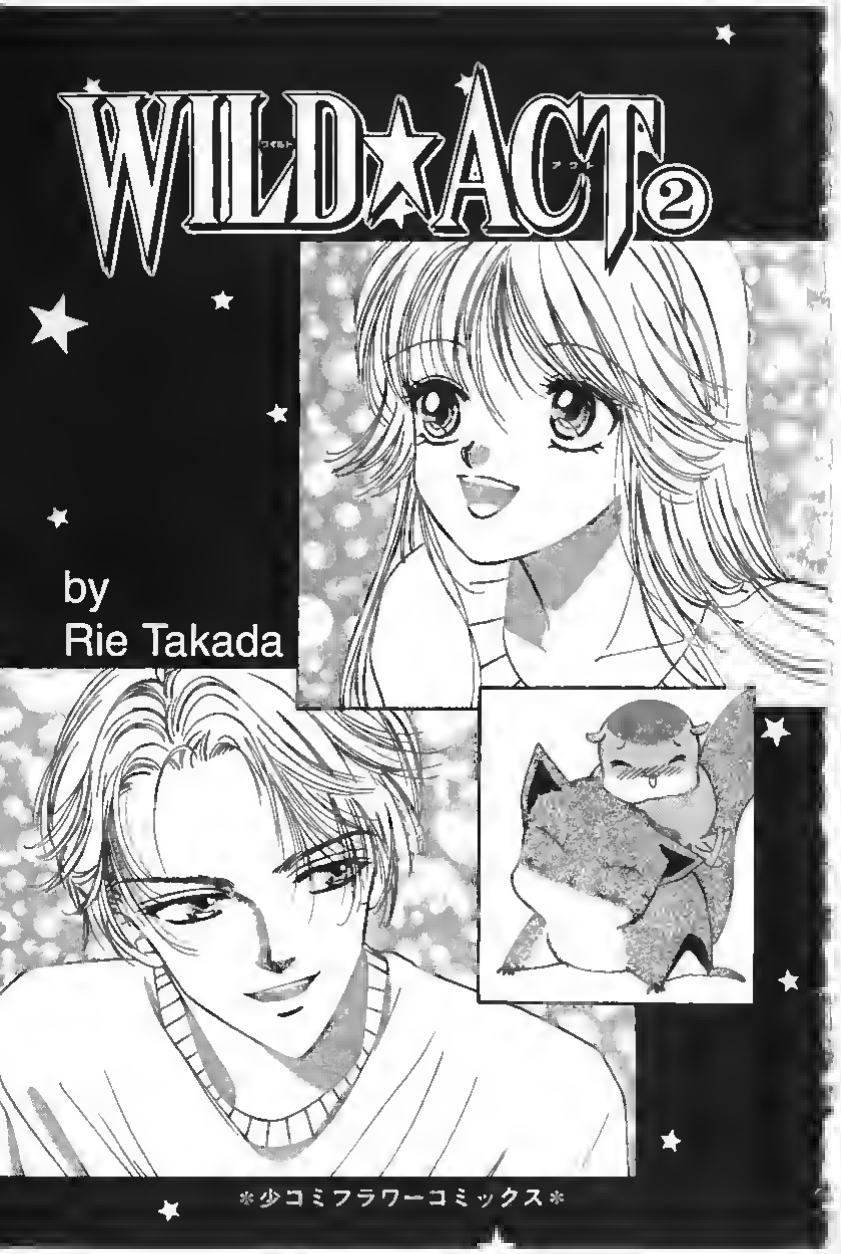
WILD ACT™

2 Rie Takada

TOKYOPOP®

VOLUME 2

BY RIE TAKADA



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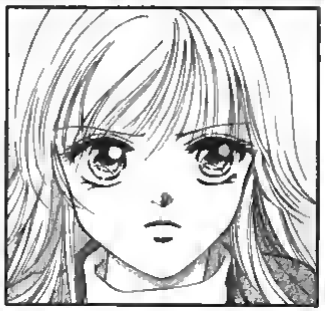
Meet the Characters

Akira Nanae

He was the first Japanese actor to stor in o leading role in Hollywood and in the international movie scene. He was killed in a tragic accident at the age of 25.



Yuniko Sakuraba

This girl is a Nonoe-maniac! She's out to steal back Akira's personal passessions from the feverish fans who ransacked his belongings when he died.

Ryu Eba

He's a papular actor now though he's only 17 years old. People often call him the "New Nanoe" but he really hates to hear that!

Kamui

He's a Honshu Flying Squirrel. Yuniko found him shortly after he was born and adopted him. Now he's her faithful partner in crime.

WILD★ACT ②

The Story So Far

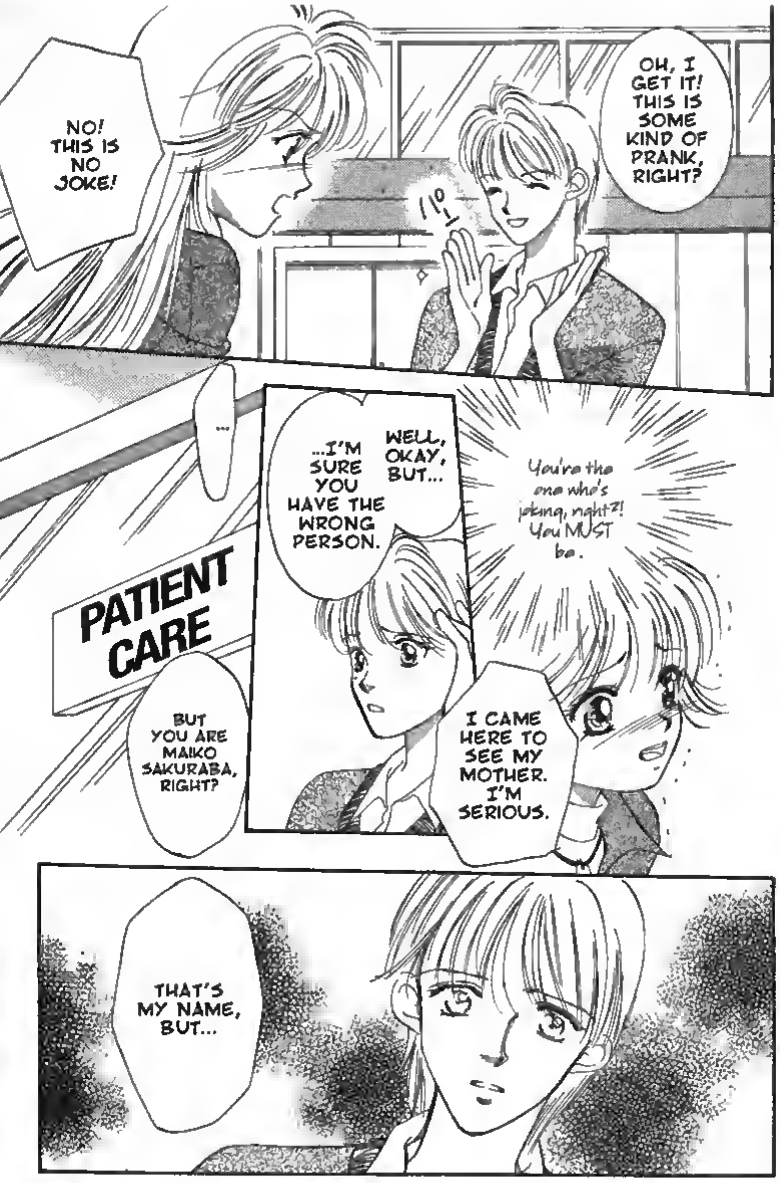
Yuniko Sakuraba is a 15-year-old girl just about to start high school. She has no father and her mother has been in a hospitol undergoing long-term treatment for as long as Yuniko can remember. Her mother was an actress with the UAT Theatre Company, so now Yuniko is in their care. But there's another side to Yuniko they don't know—she's also a thief!

Yuniko is a passionate fan of the late actor Akira Nanae, who died sixteen years ago...before she was even born. Her life's goal is to steal Akira's personal belongings from the other fans who acquired them after Akira's death.

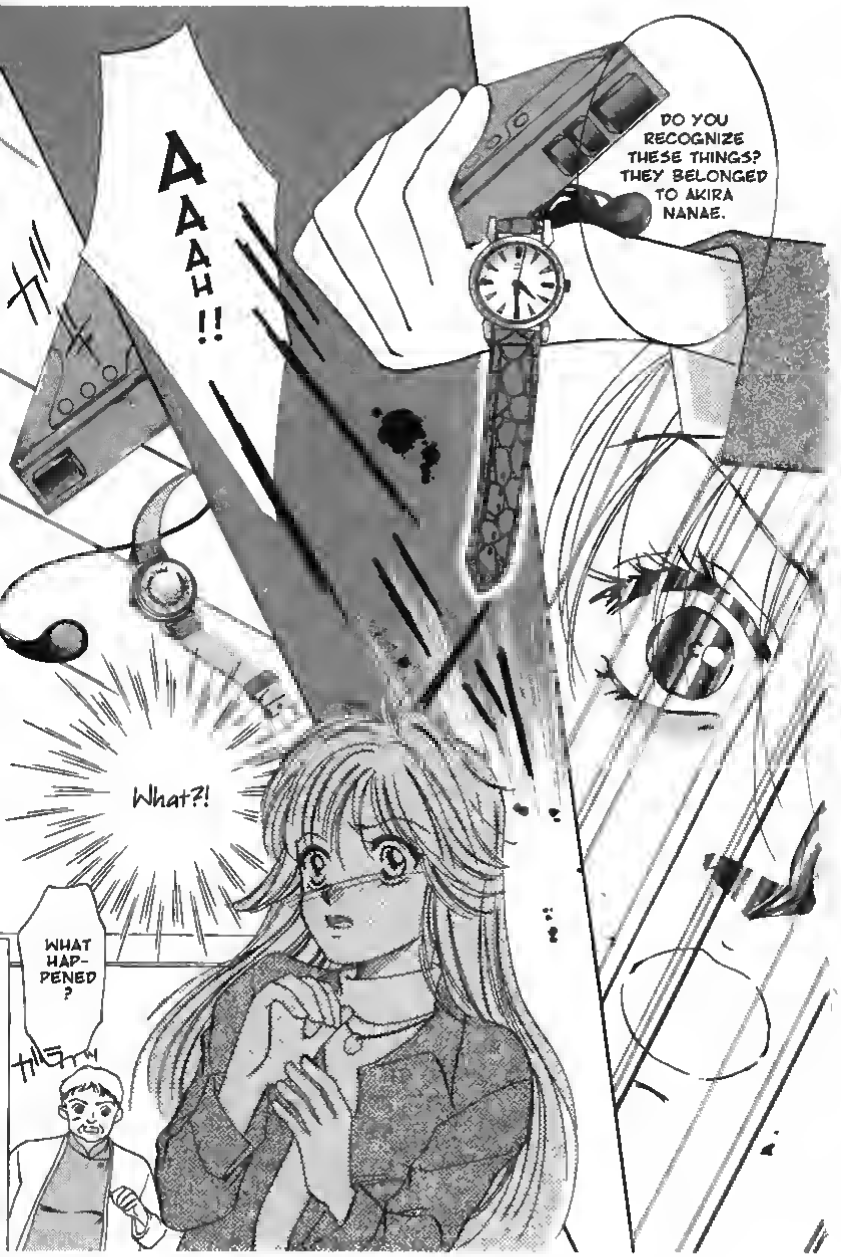
When popular young actor Ryu Eba was given the Academy Award that once belonged to Akira Nanae, Yuniko attempted to steal it from him. This gave them the chance to get to know each other, but Yuniko is wary of Ryu's true intentions.

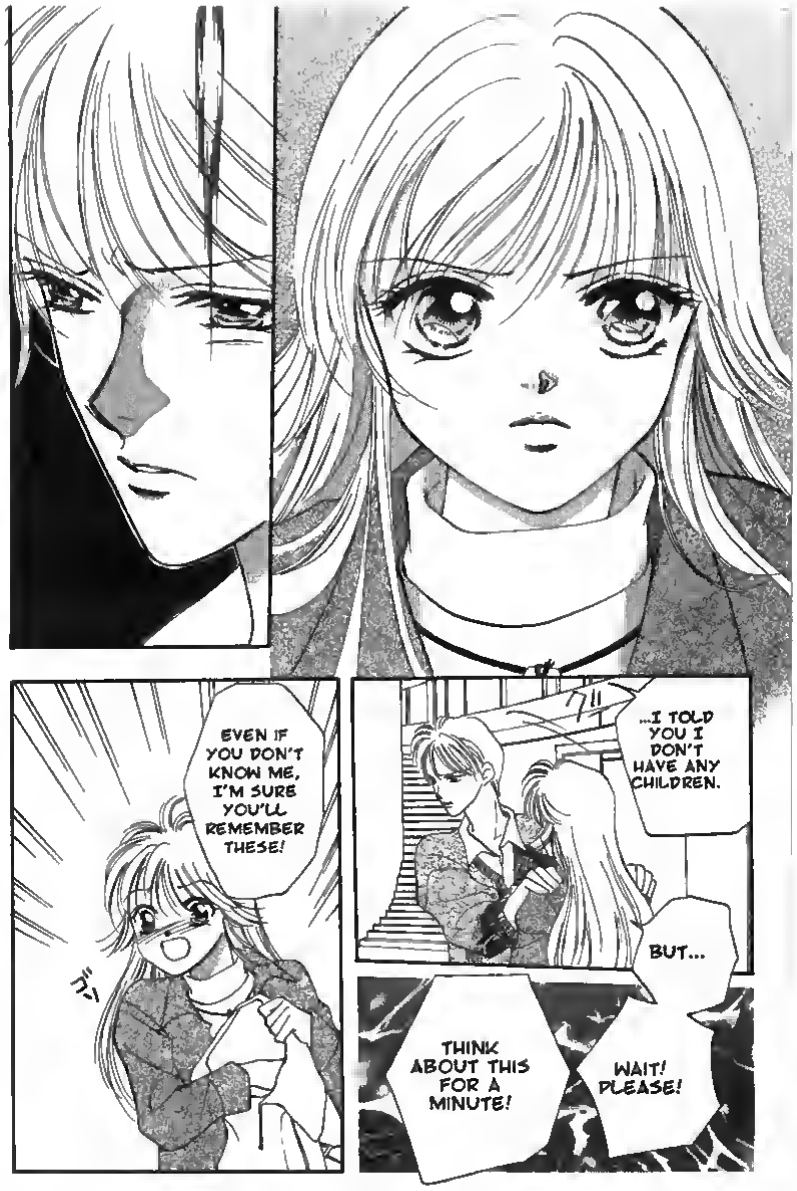
From the time she was very small, Yuniko has always wanted to meet her mother. The chance finally comes, so she's thrilled! She and Ryu head to the hospitol together to go see her.

But when they get there and find Yuniko's mother, she says that she's never been married! Worse, she also says that she has no children...?!


NO! THIS IS NO JOKE!
OH, I GET IT! THIS IS SOME KIND OF PRANK, RIGHT?
...
WELL, OKAY, BUT...
...I'M SURE YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.
You're the one who's joking, right?! You MUST be.
PATIENT CARE
BUT YOU ARE MAIKO SAKURABA, RIGHT?
I CAME HERE TO SEE MY MOTHER. I'M SERIOUS.
THAT'S MY NAME, BUT...

You don't have a daughter? What are you saying?!
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT MARRIED YET! AND I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE A DAUGHTER


AAAH!!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE THINGS? THEY BELONGED TO AKIRA NANAE.
What?!
WHAT HAP-PENED?

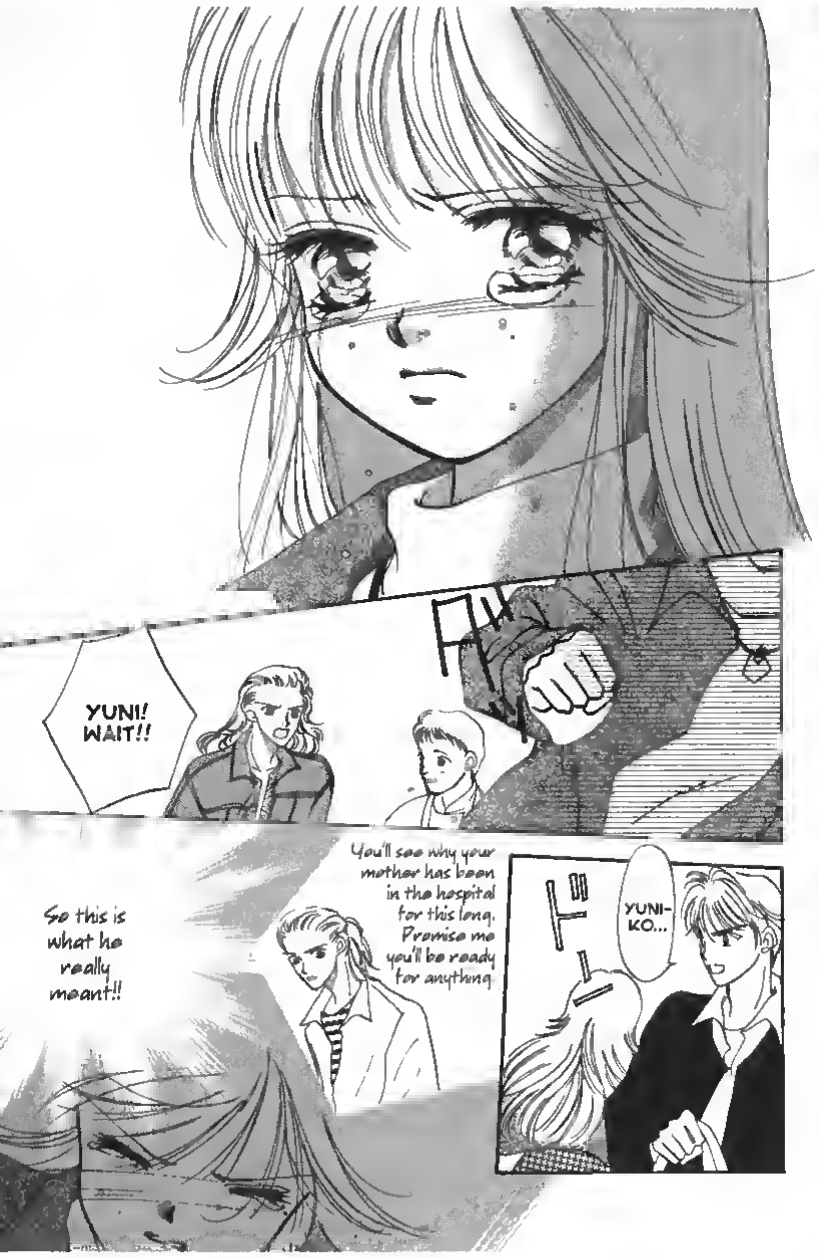

EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW ME, I'M SURE YOU'LL REMEMBER THESE!
...I TOLD YOU I DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN.
BUT...
THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MINUTE!
WAIT! PLEASE!

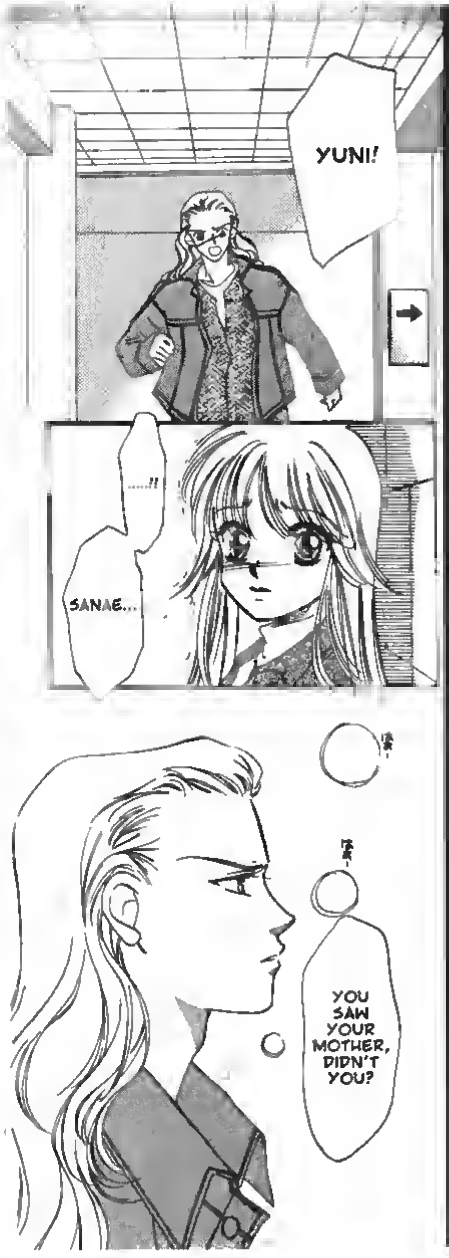
YOU SAY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN, BUT...
...I RECOGNIZE YOU! YOU'RE THE ACTRESS MAIKO SAKURA, AREN'T YOU?

PLEASE COME WITH ME FOR A MINUTE.
WHAT HAPPENED IN HERE?!
I JUST CAME. BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE MY MOM...
MS. SAKURABA, WHAT'S WRONG?!
NO.
YOU'RE HER DAUGHTER, BUT NO ONE EVER TOLD YOU WHY SHE'S IN THIS INSTITUTE?!
Eyewitness Ryu.
MS. SAKU-RABA, WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU OKAY?

ANYWAY, I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD BUT...
...UNTIL SHE CAN REMEMBER WHO SHE IS, PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM HER.
...OKAY?
AMNESIA...
HOW'D SHE END UP LIKE THIS?
SHE WAS INVOLVED IN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT, I HEARD...
...!!
OF COURSE, SHE KNOWS THAT SHE'S LOST HER MEMORY.
BUT SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HAVING A CHILD OR ABOUT BEING A FAMOUS ACTRESS LONG AGO.
IF SHE STARTS HEARING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED BEFORE SHE CAN REMEMBER, SHE'LL BE DISTRACTED AND WORRIED ABOUT HER CONDITION.
WE HAVE TO LET HER MEMORY RETURN NATURALLY. THAT'S WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN TOLD HERE...
So my mother doesn't remember that I was even born?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?!
SHE HAS AMNESIA?!
SHE CAN'T RECALL ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED MORE THAN 15 YEARS AGO
THAT'S WHEN SHE BECAME A BABYSITTER HERE IN OUR CHILD-CARE WARD


YUNI!
WAIT!!
YUNI-KO...
You'll see why your mother has been in the hospital for this long. Promise me you'll be ready for anything.
So this is what he really meant!!

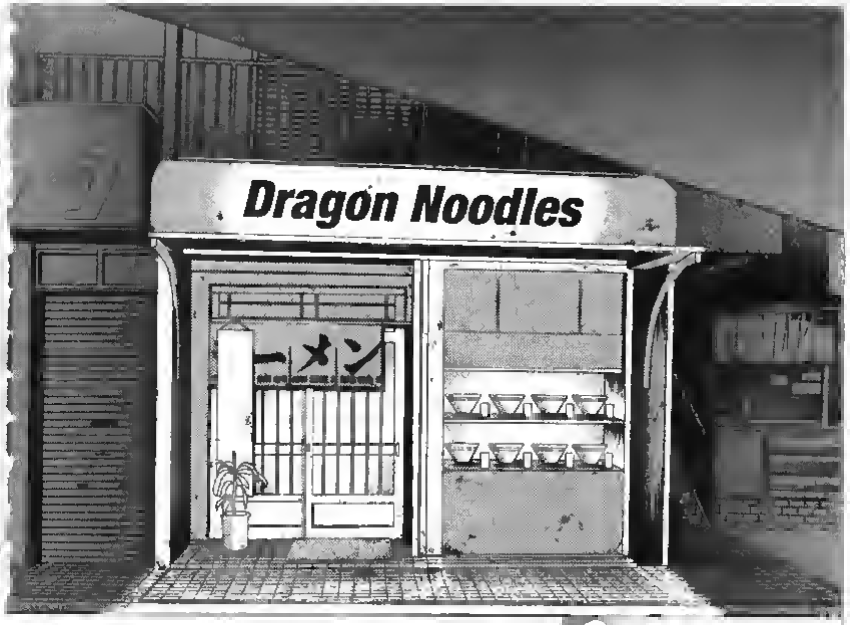


AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS, WE FINALLY MEET... BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I EXISTED ALL THIS TIME!

ANYWHERE IS BETTER THAN HERE. JUST GO!
YUNI! PLEASE, LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
SOB...
MOM...

YUNIKO!
WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME BEFORE NOW?!
THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MINUTE, PLEASE!
AAAH!!
IF SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS WHAT I'D FIND, THEN I NEVER WOULD HAVE COME!
RYU...
GET ON.
YUNIKO!

HEY!
C'MON IN.
What an insensitive jerk!
We could've gone to the beach even...
Or someplace with a nice view...
A quiet park would've been good...
But NO-O-O, he brings me to a rundown noodle shop!
EEEK! I'm outta here!
RELAX, HE'S HUMAN... I THINK!
YEP!
Z'AT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
!


Dragon Noodles
ラーメン

LET'S GO WE CAN REST UP AND T...
A RAMEN shop?
ACTUALLY, I WAS HUNGRY EVEN BEFORE WE STARTED THE DRIVE TO THE HOSPITAL...
MAN, I'M STARVING!
You mean, I'm all broken up and in tears, and this guy brings me here so he can stuff his face?!
Is this for real?
HERE WE ARE.

When Wild Act 1 went on sale, I figured I'd take a trip to see where the late, great actor James Dean died. So I took a trip to Los Angeles! (I wanted to drive to the place where the accident happened.) In the morning after leaving the same service station James Dean went to, I stopped at a restaurant and had pancakes. (He ate at that same restaurant, too!)

I rode up the hill to the Warner Brothers Studio lot where James Dean used to ride his motorcycle. (Cool!) Then I went through a section of LA called Baker Street. That's where the last autograph James Dean ever gave is framed. It's a speeding ticket! (Yaay!) I got a copy of it, then headed out. Yahoo!

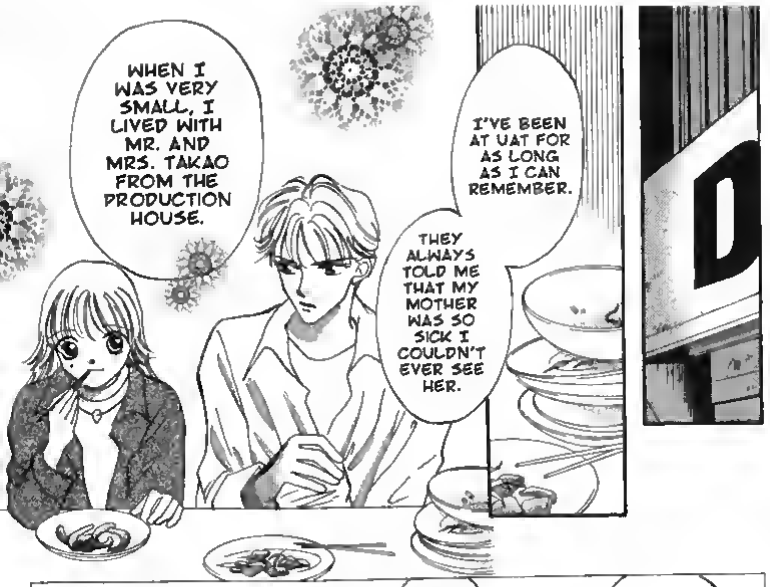
I went to the intersection of Highway 46 and Highway 41. (Oooh...so sad!) The place where the fatal accident happened isn't much of a place. It's not in town or anything, just a grassy plain. But it hasn't changed in the 40-some-odd years that have passed, they say. Everything looks the same as when the accident happened, and when I saw it, I felt the same shock everyone else must have felt! (There was nothing else around!)

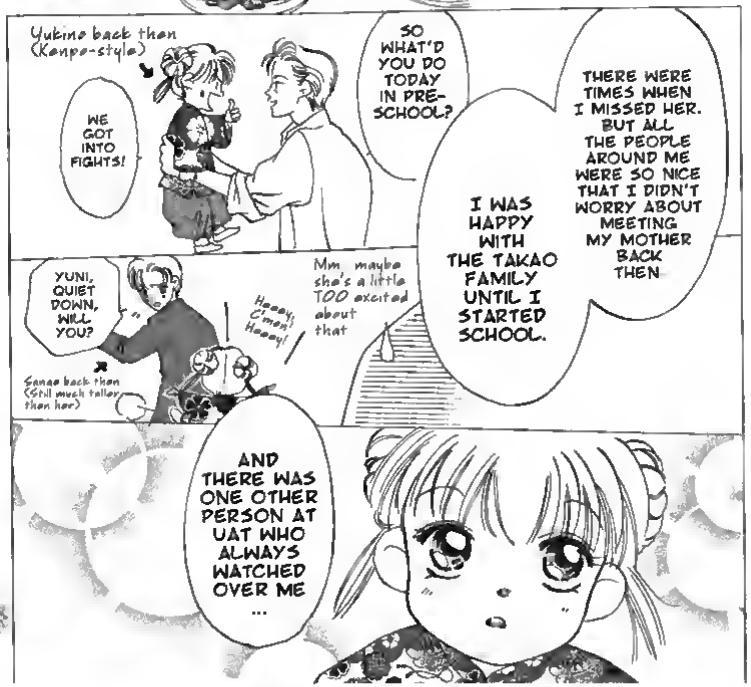
It took 12 hours for us to drive there and back, but it was still the most moving trip I'd ever taken! We're also visiting the racetrack where James Dean used to go sometimes during the week. This turned out to be one amazing California road trip.

Love,
A James Dean Maniac!

(I wrote this in the car. We're somewhere between Los Angeles and San Francisco now! Uh...at least I can see some mountains from here!)

!!?
THE MANAGER TOLD ME IF I BRING MY GIRLFRIEND, HE'LL LET US EAT FREE.
ACT LIKE YOU'RE MY GIRLFRIEND. I COME HERE ALL THE TIME
YUNIKO..
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
G-girlfriend?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Not only is his stomach more important than my sadness, but he'll toss around the word "girlfriend" just to get some free noodles?!
Oh, that's even better!
UM, JUST PLAIN RAMEN FOR ME..
I'LL HAVE A LARGE BOWL OF RAMEN WITH ONIONS AND MISO.
What a jerk!


WHEN I WAS VERY SMALL, I LIVED WITH MR. AND MRS. TAKAO FROM THE PRODUCTION HOUSE.
I'VE BEEN AT UAT FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
THEY ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT MY MOTHER WAS SO SICK I COULDN'T EVER SEE HER.


Yukino back then (Kanpo-style)
WE GOT INTO FIGHTS!
SO WHAT'D YOU DO TODAY IN PRE-SCHOOL?
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I MISSED HER. BUT ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE SO NICE THAT I DIDN'T WORRY ABOUT MEETING MY MOTHER BACK THEN
I WAS HAPPY WITH THE TAKAO FAMILY UNTIL I STARTED SCHOOL.
YUNI, QUIET DOWN, WILL YOU?
Hooey, C'mon! Hooey!
Mm, maybe she's a little TOO excited about that
Sanae back then (Still much taller than her)
AND THERE WAS ONE OTHER PERSON AT UAT WHO ALWAYS WATCHED OVER ME ...

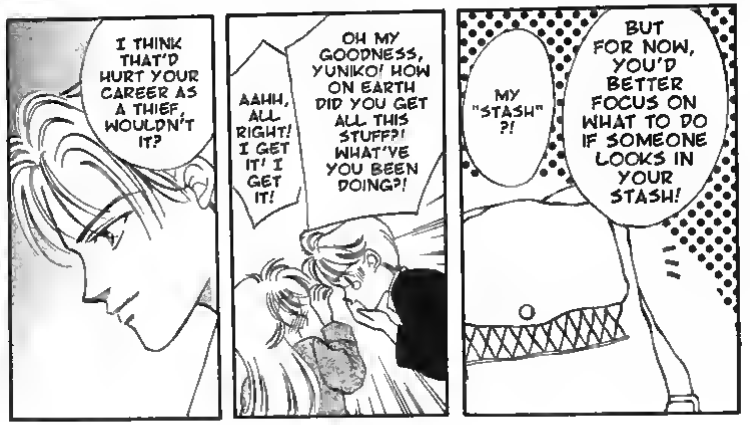
GOOD. I FIGURED HAVING A NICE DINNER WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

Was he really trying to make me feel better this whole time?
Oh...

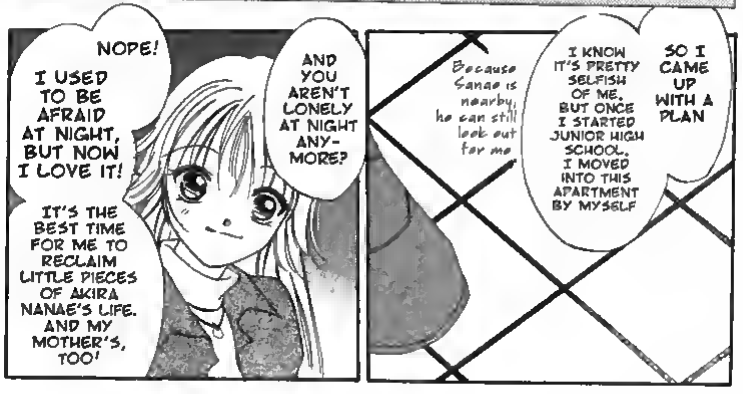
MR. AND MRS. TAKAO COULD HEAR ME CRYING, SO THEY WORRIED ABOUT ME.
MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE YOU TO SEE A PSYCHOLOGIST.
IT'S NOT HEALTHY FOR YOU TO BE DEPRESSED LIKE THIS.
I DECIDED I DIDN'T WANT THAT. SO I DECIDED THAT I COULDN'T GO ON THAT WAY.
DURING THE DAY, I WAS OKAY...BUT AT NIGHT, I'D GET SO LONELY THAT I'D CRY MYSELF TO SLEEP.
SO I WATCHED MY MOM IN ALL HER MOVIES AND WAITED UNTIL WE COULD FINALLY MEET.
AROUND THAT TIME, I HEARD ABOUT HOW AKIRA NANAE'S FANS STOLE ALMOST ALL OF HIS POSSESSIONS AFTER HE DIED. ALMOST NOTHING OF AKIRA'S WAS LEFT. THAT REALLY INTRIGUED ME.

NO MATTER WHERE I STAND, HE'S ALWAYS LOOKIN' AT ME.
WHENEVER I DID SOMETHING GOOD, HIS EYES WOULD SEEM GENTLE AND SWEET.
WHEN I DID ANYTHING BAD, THAT SAME FACE SEEMED ANGRY AT ME. I THOUGHT HIS SOUL WAS REALLY IN THAT POSTER!
I GUESS THAT'S WHEN IT ALL STARTED.
I FELL IN LOVE WITH AKIRA NANAE.
ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH ABOUT AKIRA! NOW GET UP!
BUT THEN ONCE I STARTED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MR. AND MRS. TAKAO HAD CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN.
I GUESS THAT AFFECTED ME MORE THAN ANY-THING ELSE.
IT MADE ME REALLY WANT TO MEET MY OWN MOTHER.

SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER YOU NOW, BUT SHE'LL GET HER MEMORY BACK.
BUT YOU KNOW, I NEVER EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE AMNESIA WHEN I SAW MY MOM TODAY, SHE REALLY DIDN'T KNOW ME AT ALL.
THAT FIRST MEETING WAS DEFINITELY A BIG SHOCK, THOUGH
AND WHO KNOWS? JUST THE FACT THAT YOU WENT TO MEET HER MIGHT CHANGE SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?
IT SEEMED TO ME LIKE SOMETHING WAS COMING BACK TO HER.
AFTER SHE SAW YOU, YOUR MOTHER WAS SHAKING. SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING.

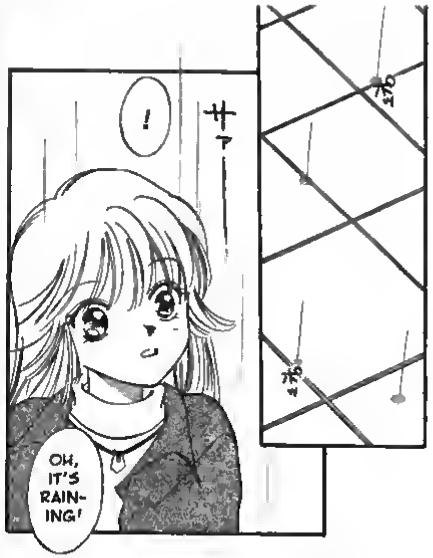

I THINK THAT'D HURT YOUR CAREER AS A THIEF, WOULDN'T IT?
AAHH, ALL RIGHT! I GET IT! I GET IT!
OH MY GOODNESS, YUNIKO! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET ALL THIS STUFF?! WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING?!
MY "STASH" ?!
BUT FOR NOW, YOU'D BETTER FOCUS ON WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE LOOKS IN YOUR STASH!

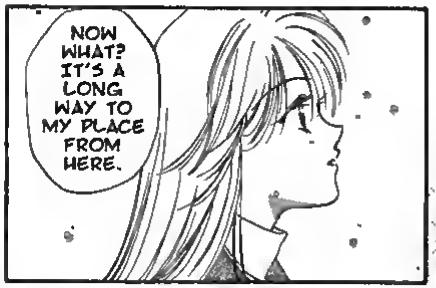
AND THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED I WAS GOING TO STEAL EVERYTHING BACK!
I FELT LIKE I'D BE ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO MY MOTHER THAT WAY, TOO.
...AND ALSO PROPS AND THINGS FROM MOVIES THAT MY MOTHER HAD BEEN IN WITH HIM.
I WENT AFTER MY BELOVED AKIRA'S BELONGINGS...


NOPE!
I USED TO BE AFRAID AT NIGHT, BUT NOW I LOVE IT!
IT'S THE BEST TIME FOR ME TO RECLAIM LITTLE PIECES OF AKIRA NANAE'S LIFE. AND MY MOTHER'S, TOO!
AND YOU AREN'T LONELY AT NIGHT ANY-MORE?
Because Sanae is nearby, he can still look out for me
I KNOW IT'S PRETTY SELFISH OF ME, BUT ONCE I STARTED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, I MOVED INTO THIS APARTMENT BY MYSELF
SO I CAME UP WITH A PLAN

R·EBA
I'm really going to stay the night with him!
I..
I LIVE ALONE, BUT THERE'S STILL JUNK ALL OVER THE PLACE.
creak...
Hey, hey...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO TAKE A GIRL INTO YOUR APARTMENT?
Won't the tabloids make a big deal about this?
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PAPARAZZI IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN!
He's kinda fruity!
He's kinda kinky!
This is the first time I'm going into a guy's place a NORMAL guy, anyway!

DO YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO KAMUI?
NOT REALLY. I PUT FOOD OUT FOR HIM, SO HE'LL BE FINE.
COOL. THEN COME STAY AT MY APARTMENT.


!
OH, IT'S RAIN-ING!


NOW WHAT? IT'S A LONG WAY TO MY PLACE FROM HERE.

HEH HEH!
YEAH, TOTALLY!
味の18番
Somehow, I feel a lot better now.

So here goes!
If I make a big deal of it, that'll probably make things more tense than they need to be.
WOW! YOU SURE ARE FORWARD!
You're making me blush.
I'm sure he's used to seeing women take off their clothes
Well, I guess actors are always getting dressed and undressed in front of people.
Oh, man! You think YOU'RE blushing!! Eee...

HERE'S A TOWEL! GET DRIED OFF, AND CHANGE OUT OF THOSE CLOTHES, TOO.
WHOA THERE!
NOW I see where this boy gets his kicks
ALL I CAN OFFER YOU IS ONE OF MY T-SHIRTS, THOUGH.
Wow! Nothing but books and videos in here...
!!
WHOOOAAA!!
Does he mean I should take off my clothes right here?!

WHAT?
SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET YOU OFF MY MIND.

SAN FRANCIS
49ERS

WH-
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
W-WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT?!

WHY?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

きゃあああああ

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.
Oh my gosh! Wait a minute!
I FIGURED IT'D GO AWAY AFTER A WHILE BUT... THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE CASE.
Whoa! I'm so nervous, my body won't move.
Hang on a minute!
I THOUGHT MAYBE I JUST LIKED THE MYSTERIOUS CAT BURGLAR SIDE OF YOU. BUT IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT, EITHER.
My throat is so dry, I can't even speak.
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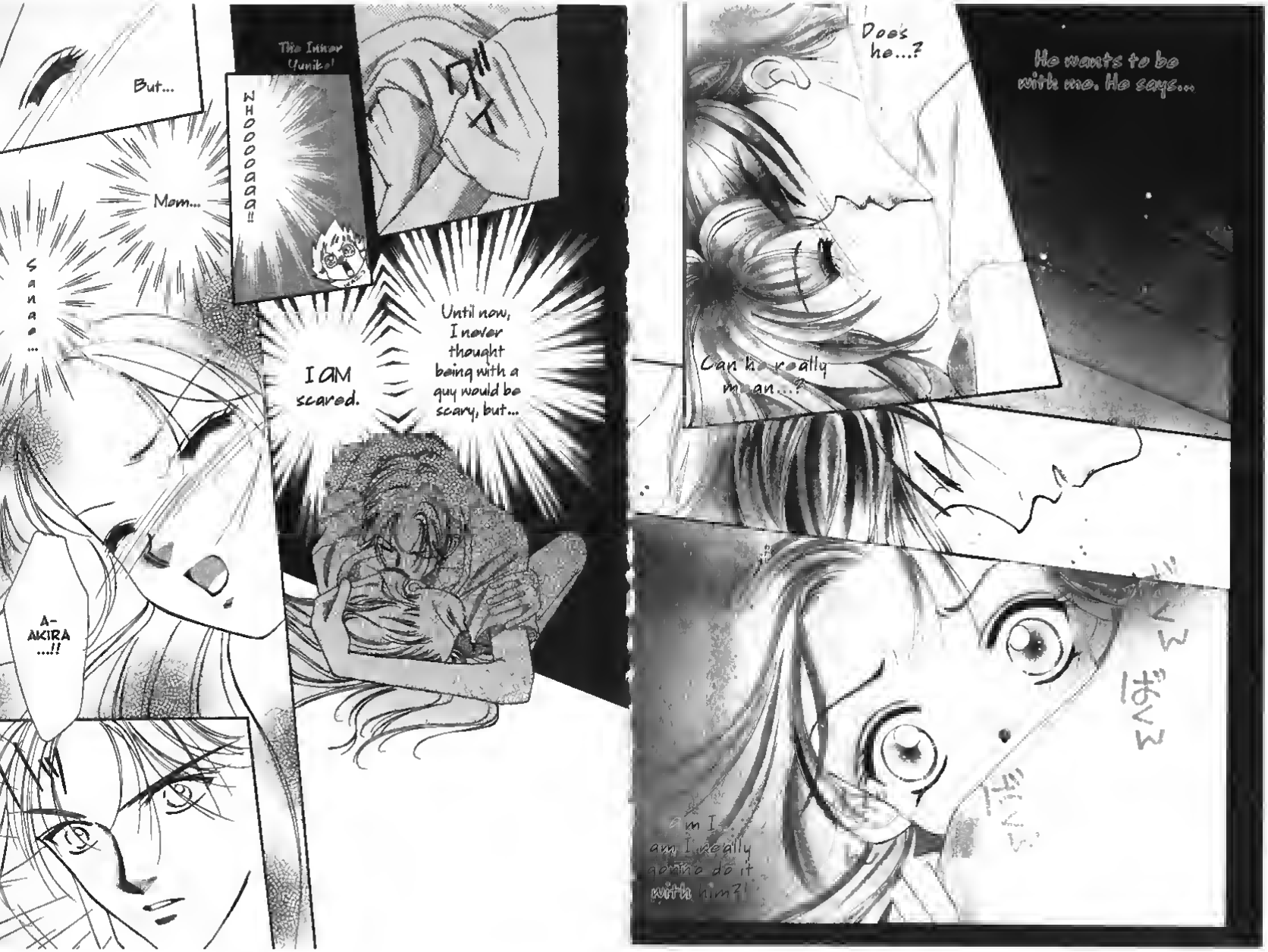
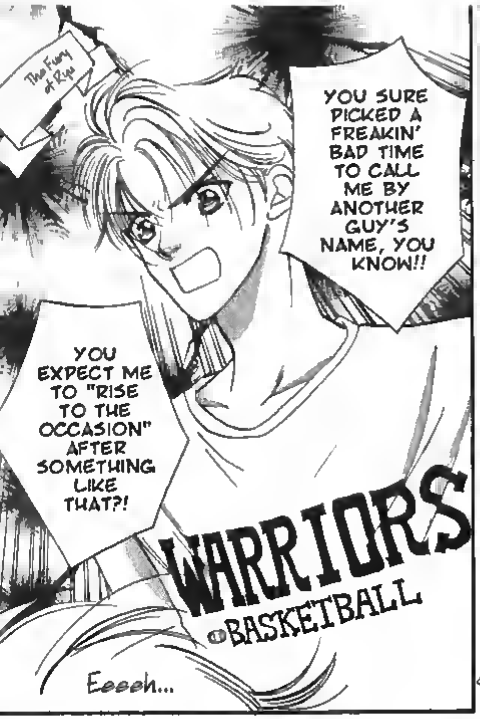
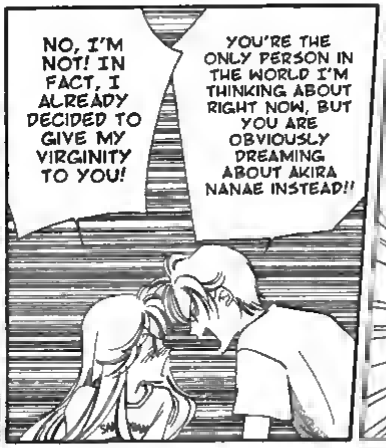
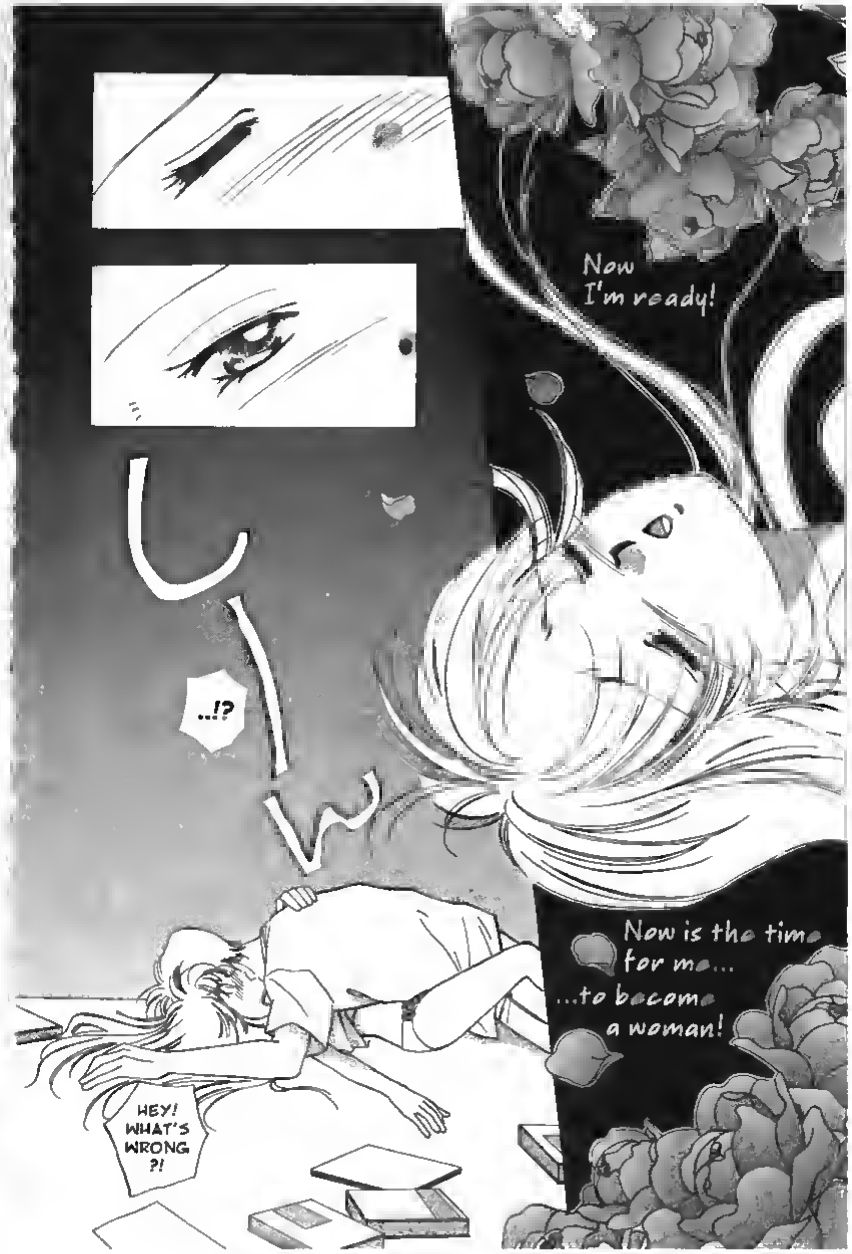

But...
Mom...
Sana...
A-AKIRA ...!!
The Inner Yuniko!
WHOOOOOAAA!!
I AM scared.
Until now, I never thought being with a guy would be scary, but...
Does he...?
He wants to be with me. He says...
Can he really mean...?
ぶんぶん
ぶんぶん
am I... am I really gonna do it with him?!


The Fury of Rap
YOU SURE PICKED A FREAKIN' BAD TIME TO CALL ME BY ANOTHER GUY'S NAME, YOU KNOW!!
YOU EXPECT ME TO "RISE TO THE OCCASION" AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
WARRIORS
BASKETBALL
Eeeeh...

.....
I LOST MY APPE-TITE.
YOU WHAT ?!


NO, I'M NOT! IN FACT, I ALREADY DECIDED TO GIVE MY VIRGINITY TO YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD I'M THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY DREAMING ABOUT AKIRA NANAE INSTEAD!!

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE NERVOUS ABOUT THIS! YOU'RE ALLOWED TO JUST BE A HORNY GUY!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING MAD AT ME?!


Now I'm ready!
..!?
Now is the time for me...
...to become a woman!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG ?!

WELL, GO TO SLEEP.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE RAIN'S GONNA STOP, SO JUST STAY THE NIGHT HERE. I'LL SLEEP ON THE FLOOR.
"I'm just a real guy."
Real, huh..?
What did he mean by that?
HEY! THAT'S NOT MY FAULT!
AW, MAN! IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE I CAN GET IT BACK UP NOW!!
DO YOU REALLY LOVE AKIRA NANAE?
Y-YEAH...
!
THEN I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TOUCH YOU.
BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH I'M RIGHT HERE, I'M JUST A REAL GUY...

Whew! I didn't wake him up
もぞ
Aaaah.
Did I really fall off the couch in my sleep and end up next to Ryu?!
やさささささ
Well...
I did it! I spent the night with a guy for the first time.
But I can't believe I mistook him for Akira Nanae again! As if Akira was really here now...
His face is so sweet when he's asleep
..like a beautiful statue.
ドキ
"Because even though I'm right here, I'm just a real guy—"

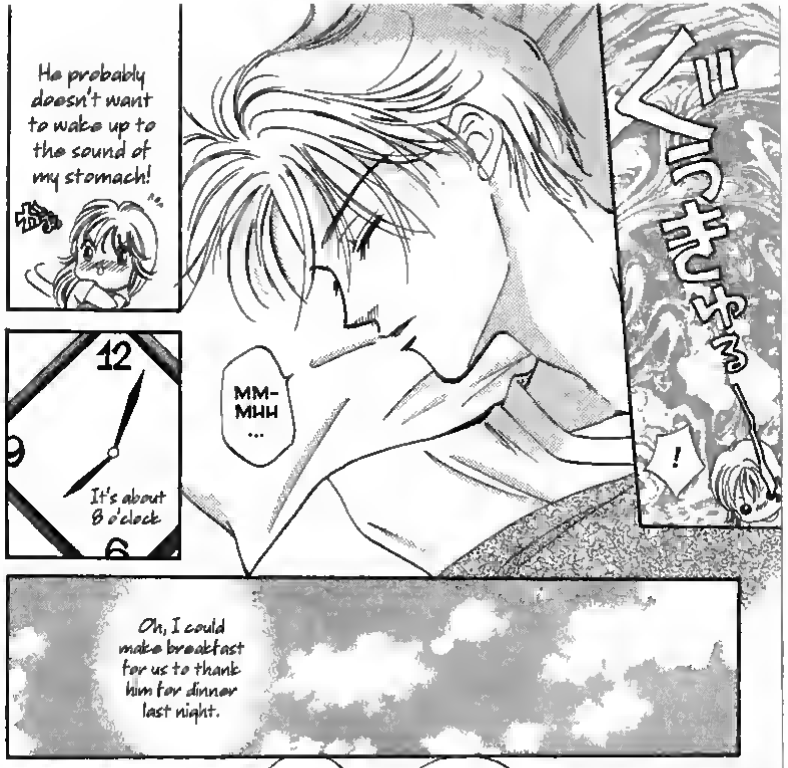
MM-HH
はっ
!!
WOULD HE SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT BECAUSE HE LOVES ME?

I'm falling for him.

Ryu is becoming my love after Akira.

NICE TO MEET YA!
I don't always understand him...
. but somehow I end up having fun whenever I'm with him
...finding out about my mother's amnesia was a huge shock. It's all thanks to Ryu that I'm handling it this well now. .
Everything happened so fast yesterday, but...
It doesn't seem to matter to Ryu but...
...I promised Sanae that I wouldn't get involved with him.
It might be too late for that now.

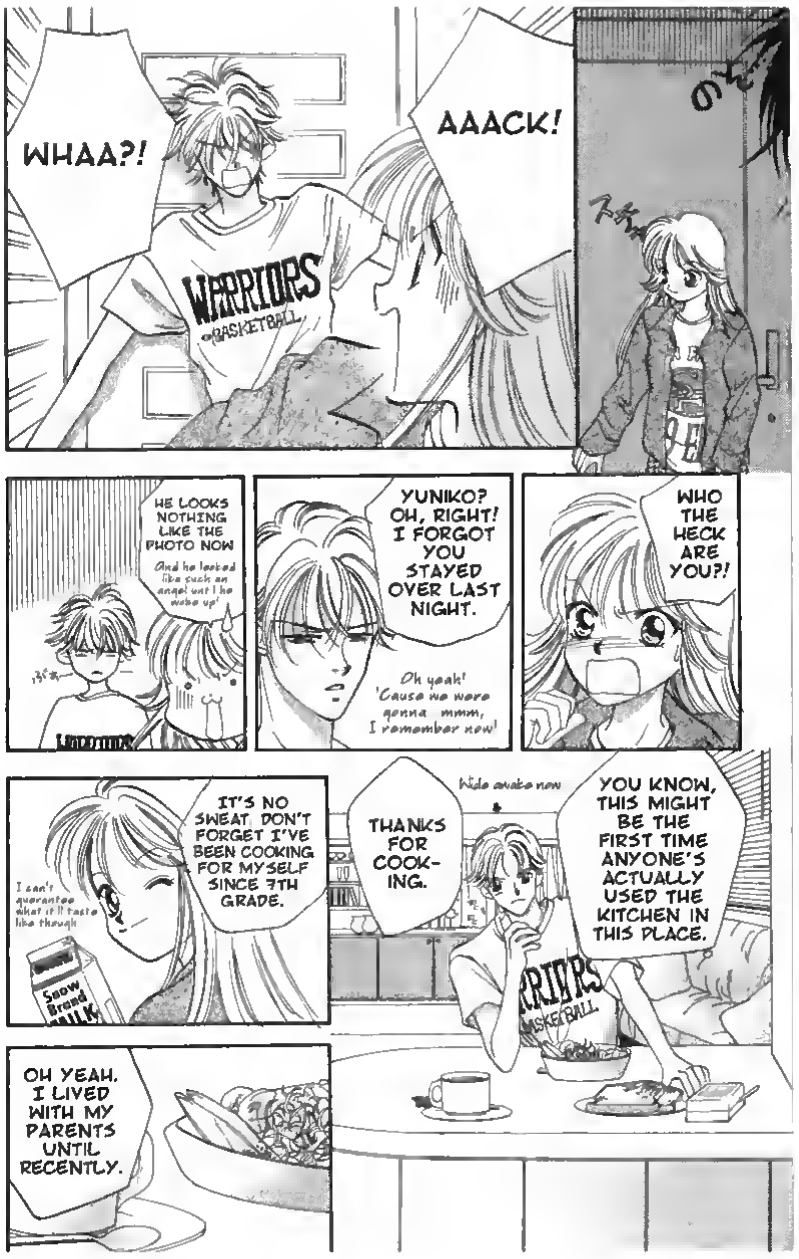
OH MY GOSH! CHECK OUT RYU EBA! ♥
OOOH YEAH, HE'S SO COOL...
IF ONLY THEY KNEW HIS APARTMENT WAS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET
He's practically a teen idol. I already know that, I guess.
Totally, for sure! He's so fine! ♡
WOW, IT'S RYU ON THE COVER OF A MAGAZINE!
That's a money shot all right. Nice!

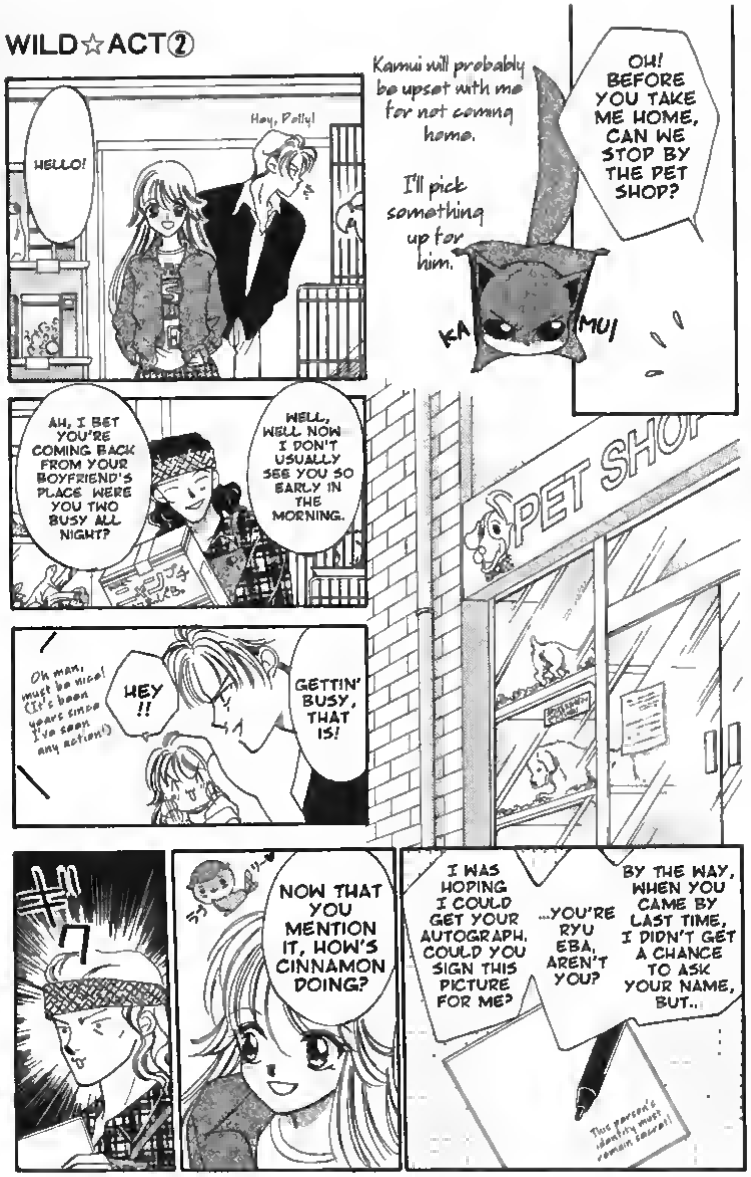


Oh, I could make breakfast for us to thank him for dinner last night.

NOTHING IN THE CUPBOARDS EXCEPT FOR SHRIMP CRACKERS..
He must eat out every day and night!
UNBELIEVABLE! THAT BOY'S FRIDGE IS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR SOME WATER AND MAYONNAISE!
THREE SEVEN

IF I GO, I'LL GET SANAE TO MAKE ME A REALLY NICE KIMONO!
THAT'D BE AWESOME! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A REALLY BIG FESTIVAL LIKE THAT!
REALLY?!
MAYBE NEXT TIME I GO VISIT, YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.
WHERE DO YOUR PARENTS LIVE?
THEY LIVE IN KANAGAWA PRETTY CLOSE TO THE SHOUNAN SEA. IT'S PRETTY FAMOUS FOR ALL THE BIG FIREWORKS FESTIVALS HELD THERE IN THE SUMMER
YEAH, I'VE HEARD OF IT!
OH?
LOOK AT THAT! AREN'T YOU ALL CUTE AND EXCITED ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WON ME AWAY FROM AKIRA EVEN...
HEE HEE!
YOU SAID IT!
AFTER STAYING THE NIGHT IN MY ARMS, I FINALLY WON YOU OVER, HUH? HEH HEH..

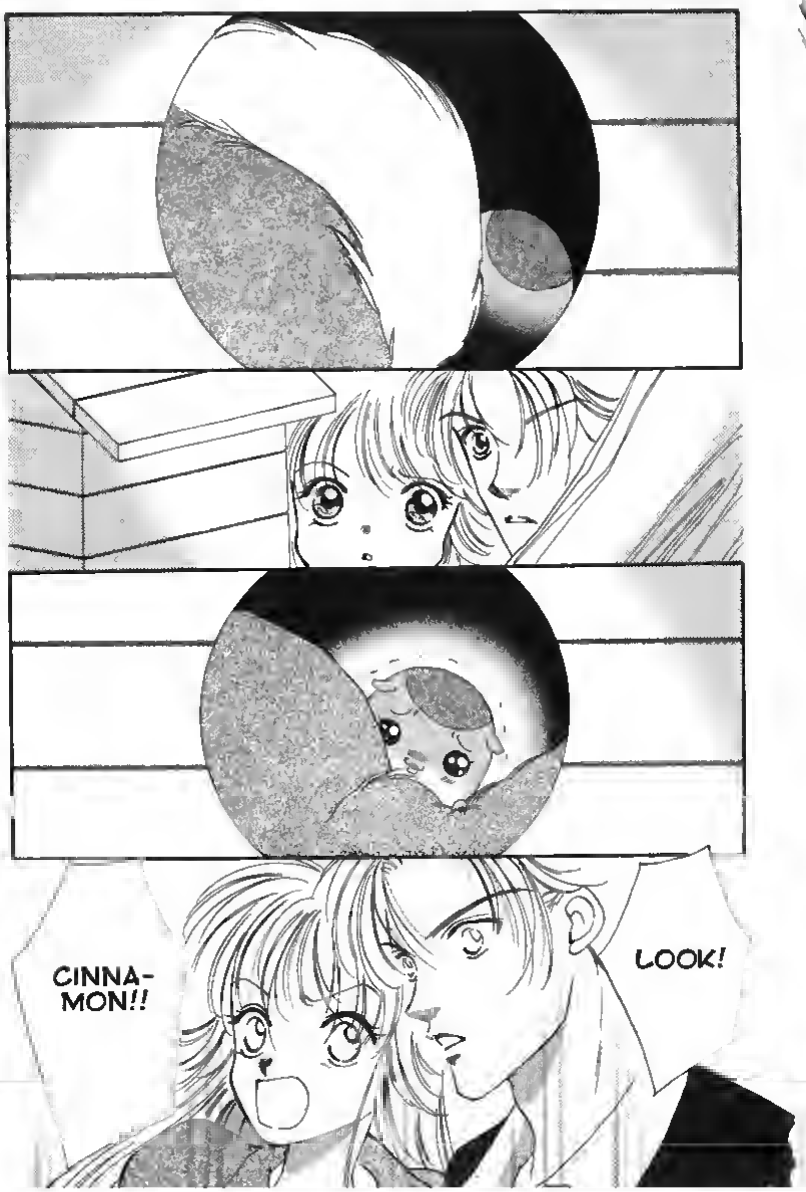

WHAA?!
AAACK!
WARRIORS
BASKETBALL
HE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THE PHOTO NOW
And he looked like such an angel until he woke up!
YUNIKO? OH, RIGHT! I FORGOT YOU STAYED OVER LAST NIGHT.
Oh yeah! 'Cause we were gonna mmm, I remember now!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
I can't guarantee what it'll taste like though
Snow Brand MILK
IT'S NO SWEAT. DON'T FORGET I'VE BEEN COOKING FOR MYSELF SINCE 7TH GRADE.
THANKS FOR COOKING.
Wide awake now
YOU KNOW, THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S ACTUALLY USED THE KITCHEN IN THIS PLACE.
OH YEAH. I LIVED WITH MY PARENTS UNTIL RECENTLY.


HELLO!
Hey, Polly!
Kamui will probably be upset with me for not coming home.
I'll pick something up for him.
OH! BEFORE YOU TAKE ME HOME, CAN WE STOP BY THE PET SHOP?
KA
MUI
AH, I BET YOU'RE COMING BACK FROM YOUR BOYFRIEND'S PLACE WHERE YOU TWO BUSY ALL NIGHT?
WELL, WELL NOW I DON'T USUALLY SEE YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
PET SHOP
Oh man, must be nice! (It's been years since I've seen any action!)
HEY !!
GETTIN' BUSY, THAT IS!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW'S CINNAMON DOING?
I WAS HOPING I COULD GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH. COULD YOU SIGN THIS PICTURE FOR ME?
...YOU'RE RYU EBA, AREN'T YOU?
BY THE WAY, WHEN YOU CAME BY LAST TIME, I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO ASK YOUR NAME, BUT..
This person's identity must remain secret!

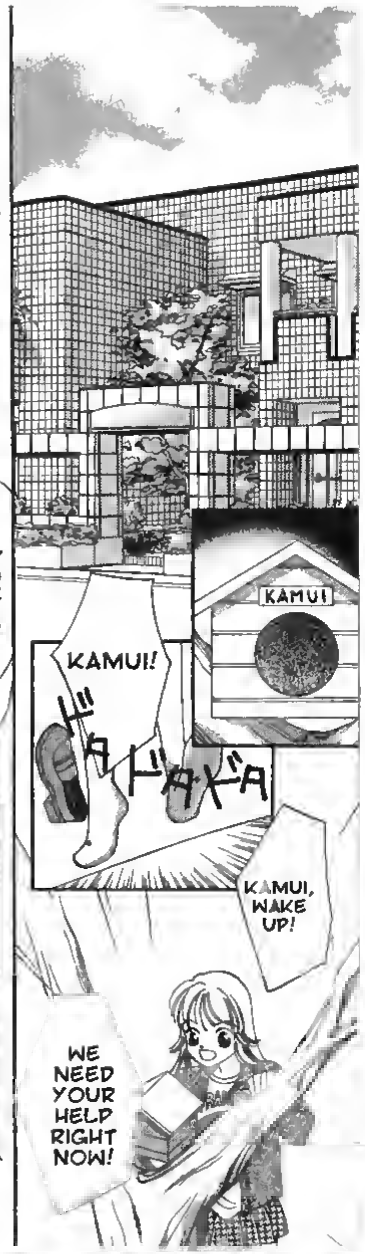
I CAN'T HAVE MY GIRL STAY AT MY PLACE AND THEN MAKE HER GO HOME ALONE!
AWW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ME ALL THE WAY HOME IF IT'S OUT OF THE WAY
IF SANAE IS THERE WAITING FOR YOU, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE THIS NOW
I'VE GOT ONE WICKED GIRL ON MY HANDS NOW.
If he finds out I'm coming home this morning after spending the night with Ryu, he'll be pretty ticked, I bet...
Yeah. I completely ignored his advice about Ryu...
Ooh! Yuni! I can't believe you!!
And Ryu seems willing to fight with him about seeing me.

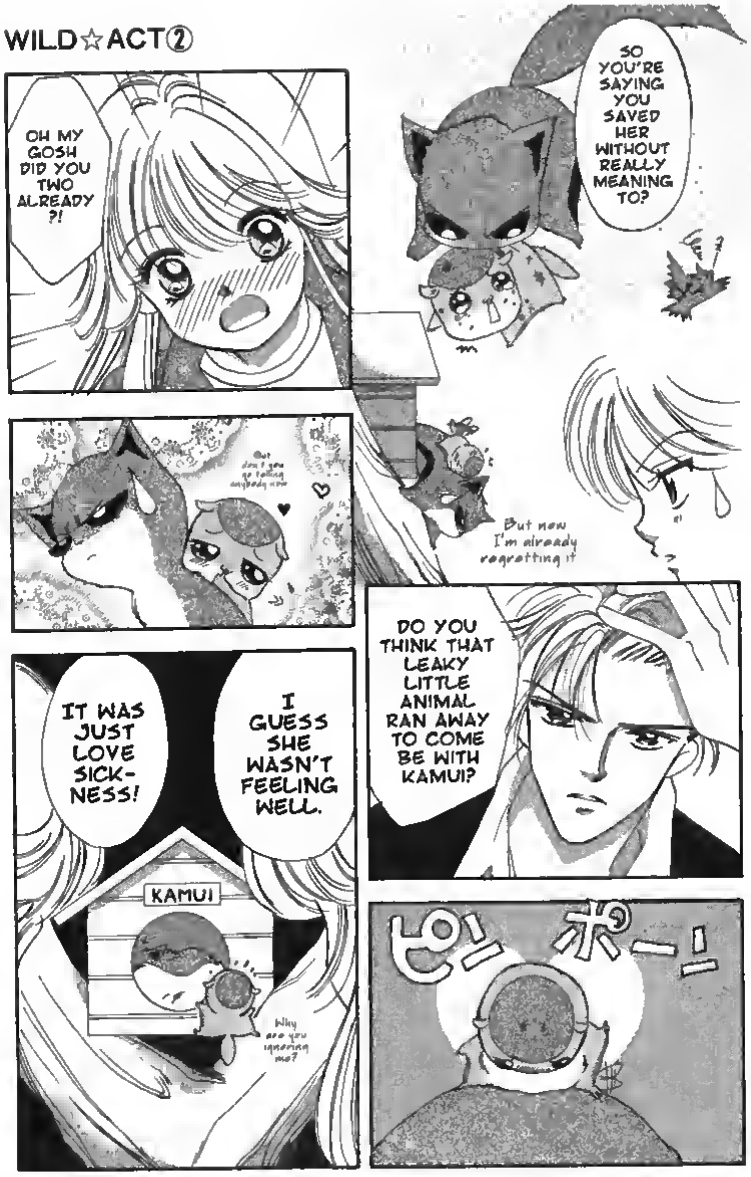
...KAMUI?!
WHAT ABOUT...
UM, YUNI...?!
COME ON, LET'S GO GET HIM.
YEAH.
GREAT IDEA! KAMUI MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND HER!
DON'T WORRY! IF WE FIND HER, WE'LL RETURN CINNAMON TO YOU AT NO CHARGE!
You really don't have to do that though, I'm...

I KNOW I SHOULD'VE KEPT A BETTER WATCH, BUT...
...SHE GOT AWAY.
!
LATELY, SHE HASN'T SEEMED TOO ENERGETIC, SO I DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD THE STRENGTH TO RUN AWAY.
SHE RAN AWAY?!
UH, ABOUT CINNA-MON...
WELL, SHE WAS REALLY TIMID. IF SHE RAN INTO A CAT OR SOMETHING, WELL...
I'm leaving! Don't come looking for me now.
BUT SHE JUST RAN AWAY YESTERDAY SO THERE'S A CHANCE SHE COULD STILL BE ALIVE.
SHE WAS A CUTE LITTLE THING.
I SHOULD'VE JUST KEPT HER AND RAISED HER MY-SELF
Oh, poor Cinnamon!!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY LOOKING FOR HER?
THAT'S EASY TO SAY. BUT SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE IN TOWN. HOW COULD WE EVEN SPOT HER?


CINNA-MON!!
LOOK!

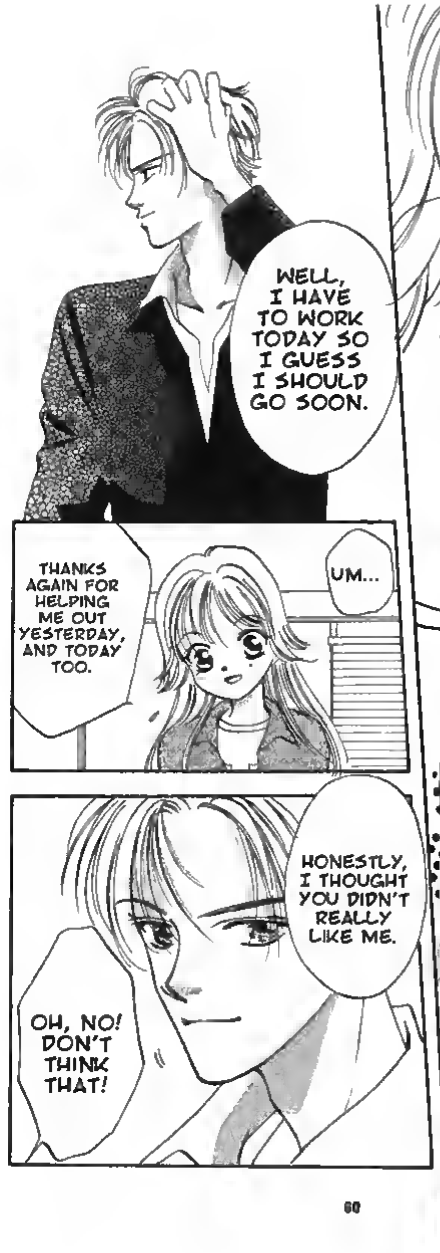
SHE'S DISAP-PEARED!
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT LITTLE FLYING SQUIRREL THEY CALLED CINNAMON?
I KNOW I'M BUGGING YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY AFTER NOT EVEN COMING HOME LAST NIGHT, BUT...
KAMUI
WE WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR HER. IT'S URGENT!
...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND HER!
KAMUI!
C'MON, GET UP!


KAMUI
KAMUI!
KAMUI, WAKE UP!
WE NEED YOUR HELP RIGHT NOW!


OH MY GOSH DID YOU TWO ALREADY ?!
SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU SAVED HER WITHOUT REALLY MEANING TO?
But now I'm already regretting it
DO YOU THINK THAT LEAKY LITTLE ANIMAL RAN AWAY TO COME BE WITH KAMUI?
IT WAS JUST LOVE SICK-NESS!
I GUESS SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL.
KAMUI
Why are you ignoring me?
ピンポーン

おじゃ…
ACK! NOT AGAIN!
?
KAMUI... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
PTOOEY, PTOO-!
GLOW!
KYUUU!
KYUUU!
KYUUU!
KYUUU!
?!
おじゃじゃ
WHAT? OH, YOU'LL TELL ME IF I GIVE YOU MORE FOOD?

OKAY, THEN...
SEE YOU SOON.
SMACK!

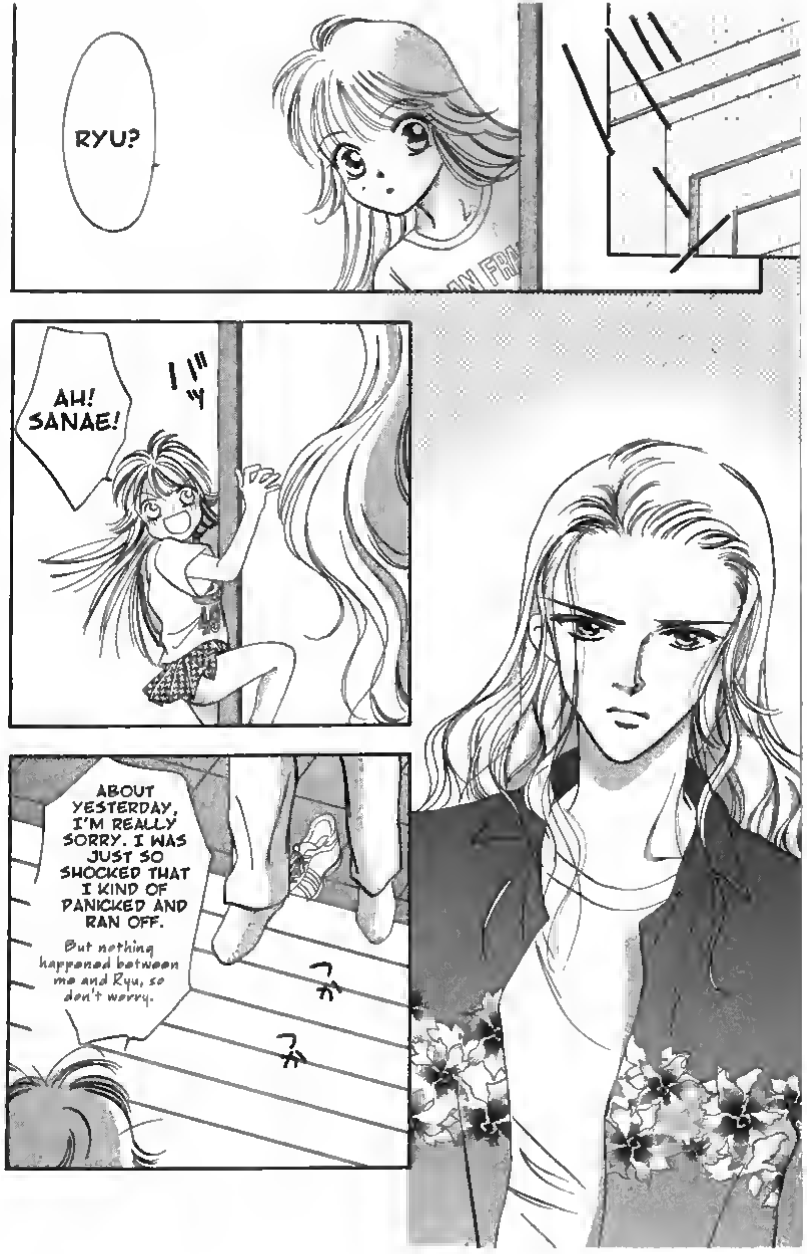

HEH HEH!
THAT'S SO SWEET!
THAT'S IT THEN. I GUESS SHE'LL JOIN MY LITTLE FAMILY AND BECOME CINNAMON SAKURABA!
Oooh, JOY!
WELL, I HAVE TO WORK TODAY SO I GUESS I SHOULD GO SOON.
UM...
THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING ME OUT YESTERDAY, AND TODAY TOO.
HONESTLY, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T REALLY LIKE ME.
OH, NO! DON'T THINK THAT!

LET'S JUST SAY... I MADE HER FEEL MUCH BETTER.
YEAH, WE WERE TOGETHER.
PLUS, SHE KNOWS YOU MEAN WELL, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO OVERBEARING SHE'S NOT SOME WEAK LITTLE GIRL WHO NEEDS PROTECTING.
...SHE'S ALREADY FALLEN FOR ME.
MAYBE THAT'S RUDE SINCE YOU TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM HER AND ALL, BUT...
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE USED TO CRY EVERY NIGHT, BUT NOW SHE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON. SHE'S GOT MORE GUTS THAN ME, THAT'S FOR SURE!

JEEZ!
That was like something out of a movie.
SANAE...!
YOU SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT WITH HER, DIDN'T YOU?

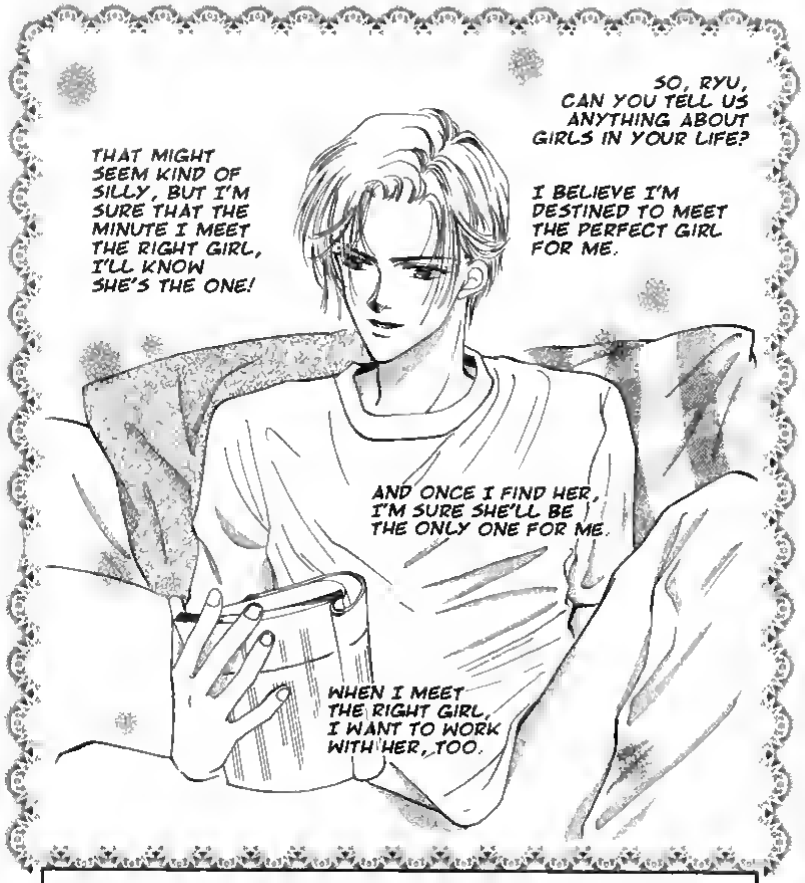
.....
YUNIKO IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST PEOPLE I KNOW. SHE GETS IT FROM HER PARENTS.
I'M SURE SHE HAS MORE COURAGE THAN YOU!
YOU SAY YOU'VE FALLEN FOR HER? FOR HER WHAT, HUH?
SOMETHING ABOUT HER EYES IS ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE TO YOU, ISN'T IT?
HER FACE? HER PERSONALITY?
...BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOUR FACE IS MOST LIKE THE MAN WHO'S REALLY ON HER MIND.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISTAKEN ABOUT HER BEING IN LOVE.
SHE'LL ALWAYS BE ATTRACTED TO YOU, NATURALLY...

I NEVER KNEW HOW TO TELL YOU ABOUT HER AMNESIA WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.
I'M SORRY FOR HIDING YOUR MOTHER FROM YOU.
IT'S OKAY.
WE ALL JUST KEPT THINKING THAT SHE'D REGAIN HER MEMORY, AND THEN EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
Sanae...
I wasn't thinking about Sanae's feelings at all.
OH, I'M SO SORRY!
I WAS SO VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT.


RYU?
AH! SANAE!
ABOUT YESTERDAY, I'M REALLY SORRY. I WAS JUST SO SHOCKED THAT I KIND OF PANICKED AND RAN OFF.
But nothing happened between me and Ryu, so don't worry.

SANAE, DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE RYU OUTSIDE?
EVERY-THING'S FINE WITH RYU NOW.
UM... ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT...
EITHER WAY, YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULDN'T SEE RYU ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WILL YOU KEEP THAT PROMISE FOR ME FROM NOW ON?
What?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT HE MIGHT DO.
FROM NOW ON, HE WON'T COME TO SEE YOU ANYMORE.
AND NOW HE UNDER-STANDS WHY...
JUST WHAT I SAID.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I TOLD HIM NOT TO COME SEE YOU ANYMORE.
...THOUGH HE WAS RELUCTANT TO AGREE WITH ME AT FIRST.
HE KNOWS NOW THAT IT'S BETTER FOR THE BOTH OF YOU.

WEEKLY People Time
HE BELIEVES IN DESTINY?
WHO KNEW HE WAS SUCH A ROMANTIC!
OH, "SO YOU STILL HAVEN'T HAD THAT DESTINED ENCOUNTER YET, HAVE YOU?" TEE-HEE!
YADA YADA YADA ...
THAT JERK!
I GUESS HE'S SAYING I'M NOT "THE ONE."
中西書店


SO, RYU, CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT GIRLS IN YOUR LIFE?
I BELIEVE I'M DESTINED TO MEET THE PERFECT GIRL FOR ME.
THAT MIGHT SEEM KIND OF SILLY, BUT I'M SURE THAT THE MINUTE I MEET THE RIGHT GIRL, I'LL KNOW SHE'S THE ONE!
AND ONCE I FIND HER, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.
WHEN I MEET THE RIGHT GIRL, I WANT TO WORK WITH HER, TOO.

Special Interview with Ryu Eba

But don't call him the "New Nanae" anymore!

At only 17 years old, he's token Japan's movie scene by storm!

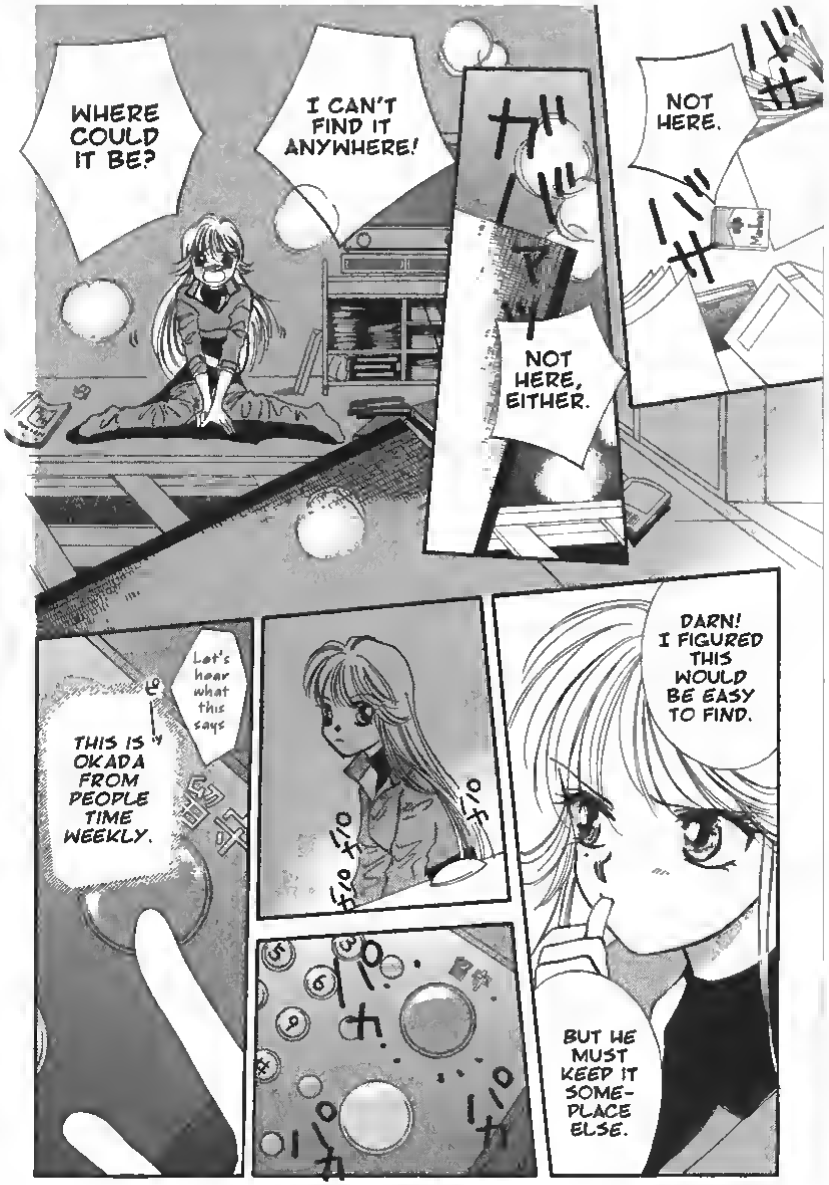
This is no time to be thinking of Ryu... I'm thinking of Akira!!
Tomorrow, I'll start my first year in high school.
I can't let this chance pass me by. The moon is right.
My next target is waiting...at school with Akira Nanao's screen tests for his third movie, "Nostalgia."
It's now in the hands of a guy who was an assistant cameraman at the time, Saiji Ogawa, now 58.
He's no longer a movie cameraman. Now he rushes around with the paparazzi as a celebrity gossip photographer.

Because Sanao TOLD him not to see me anymore.
Ryu doesn't seem like the kind of guy who'd just sit back and do what Sanao said.
But he really isn't coming to see me anymore.
From now on, he won't be coming to see you anymore.
It's been a week now since I saw Ryu.
びっ
Oh, no! I forgot I'm on standby! I've got work to do tonight!!
Ryu...

MEANWHILE, KAMUI IS FEELING THE BURDEN OF WATCHING OUT FOR CINNAMON...
ちゃ ちゃ ちゃ ちゃ
MILK
ちゃ ちゃ ちゃ ちゃ
KAMUI REALLY WISHES HE'D GONE ALONG WITH YUNIKO INSTEAD.
Chuu, now I'm thirsty again!
FEED ME!
ちゃ ちゃ ちゃ
おじょ

ガシャン
NOW!
So here I am to do my thing while he's out for the night.
NOT an attract to position for a girl to be in...
WHAT A DUMP!
I WONDER IF MOST PAPARAZZI LIVE LIKE THIS...?
Hmm, and tiny inside, too. This should be easy.
WOW, ON TOP OF THAT, HE LEFT THE WINDOW UNLOCKED!
ガラ
What if a thief were to come by?!

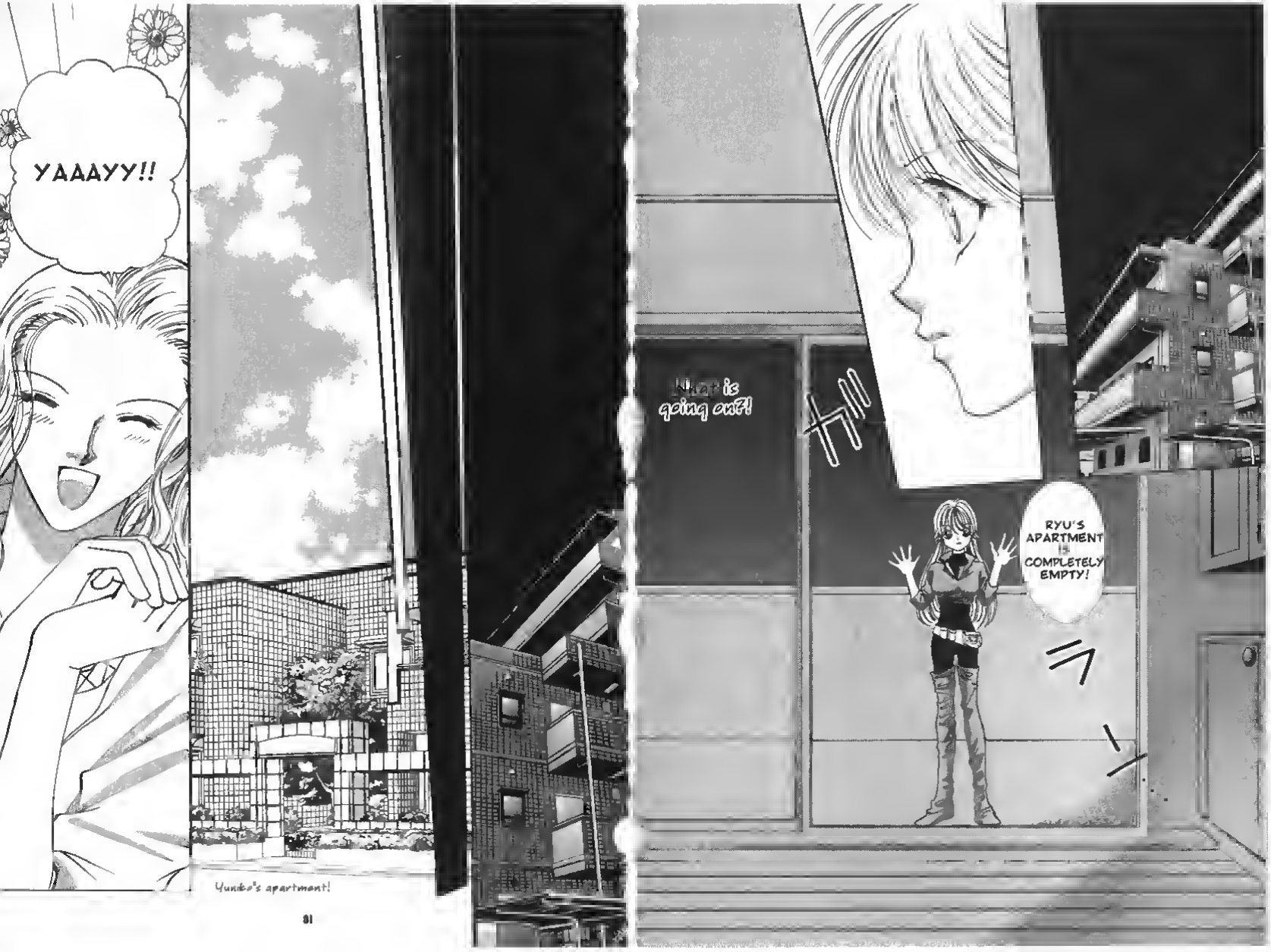
What...
...did he just say?!
That makes sense but...
The "rare footage" is probably the same screen test reel I'm looking for.
WE'RE INTERESTED IN BUYING THE PHOTOS YOU HAVE OF RYU EBA FOOLING AROUND WITH THAT GIRL.
WE'D ALSO LIKE THE RARE AKIRA NANAE FOOTAGE YOU MENTIONED. FOR BOTH, WE'LL OFFER $400,000.
WE'D LIKE A MEETING TO REVIEW THE PHOTOS AND REEL SO WE CAN VERIFY THE CONTENTS. THEN WE'LL FURTHER DISCUSS PURCHASING THEM.
I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN TOMORROW.

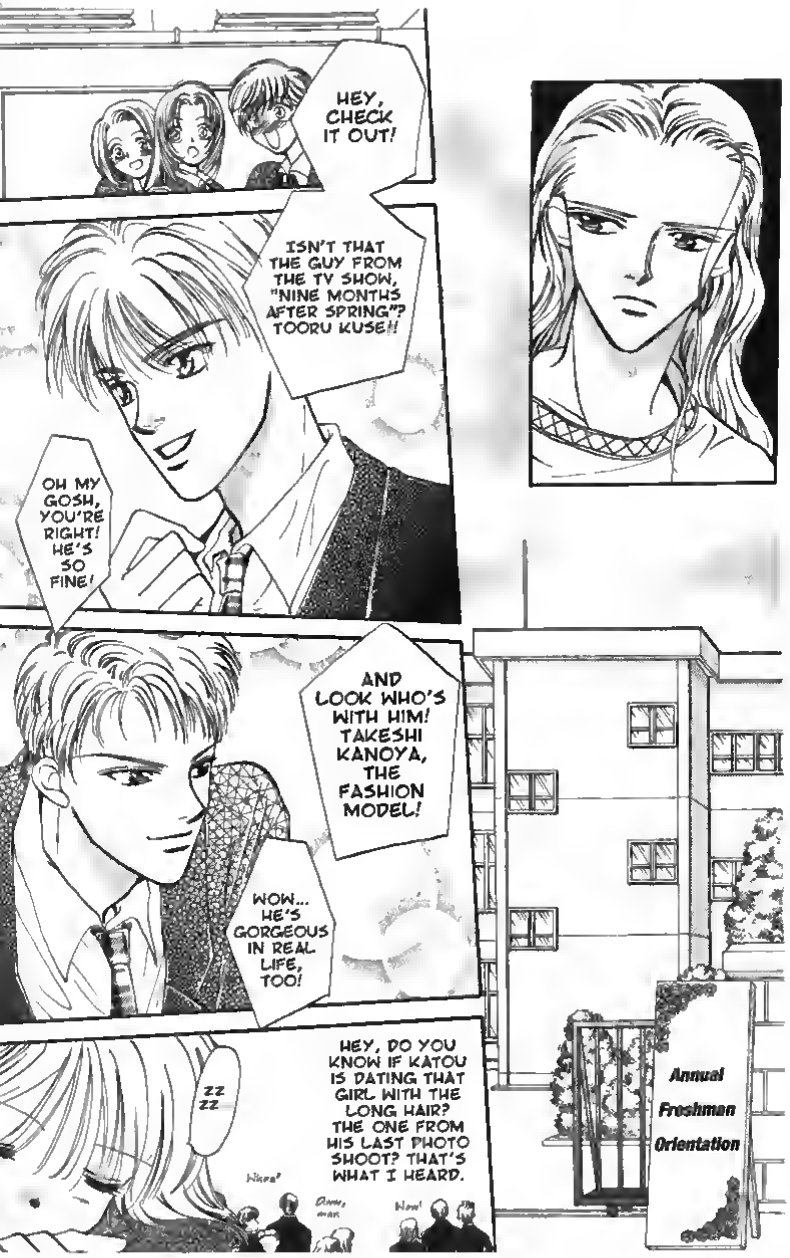

WHERE COULD IT BE?
I CAN'T FIND IT ANYWHERE!
NOT HERE.
NOT HERE, EITHER.
Let's hear what this says
THIS IS OKADA FROM PEOPLE TIME WEEKLY.
DARN! I FIGURED THIS WOULD BE EASY TO FIND.
BUT HE MUST KEEP IT SOMEPLACE ELSE.

RYU, ARE YOU SURE THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?
Sorry to keep you waiting
NOW I'VE GOT EVERY-THING.

YEAH!

But Ryu...
In the time he hasn't come to see me...
...he's been seeing another girl?!

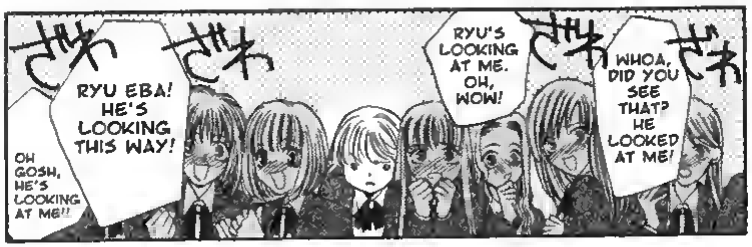

YAAAYY!!
Yuuko's apartment!
What is going on?!
RYU'S APARTMENT IS COMPLETELY EMPTY!


HEY, CHECK IT OUT!
ISN'T THAT THE GUY FROM THE TV SHOW, "NINE MONTHS AFTER SPRING"? TOORU KUSE!!
OH MY GOSH, YOU'RE RIGHT! HE'S SO FINE!
AND LOOK WHO'S WITH HIM! TAKESHI KANOYA, THE FASHION MODEL!
WOW... HE'S GORGEOUS IN REAL LIFE, TOO!
ZZ ZZ
HEY, DO YOU KNOW IF KATOU IS DATING THAT GIRL WITH THE LONG HAIR? THE ONE FROM HIS LAST PHOTO SHOOT? THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
Annual Freshman Orientation

YEAH ?
MR. TAKAO CHOSE A SCHOOL FOR ENTERTAINERS, SO THERE'LL BE A LOT OF BRIGHT FACES THERE, BUT..
JUST WAIT! YUNIKO SURELY WILL OUTSHINE THEM ALL! ♥
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE NOW A HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN!
A BRAND NEW BEGINNING FOR YOU ISN'T THAT GREAT?!
JUST BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE TEACHERS SAY.
WHAT'S WITH THE GLOOMY FACE, HUH? ARE YOU STRESSED ?!
But either way, it's clear that Ryu doesn't intend to see me anymore.
That "other girl" is still just gossip...
B-B-B-But...
No, No!
Until I hear it for myself, I can't be sure that's even true
I wonder why Ryu's apartment is suddenly empty?!
He never said anything about moving.
TAKE LOTS OF NOTES, OKAY?
I wonder if it has something to do with the girl he's fooling around with...

!!
RYU EBA!
IT'S REALLY HIM!
No matter how many people might be watching, I have to ask him.
UH, SHE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY
I have to know! I have to find out what's going on!

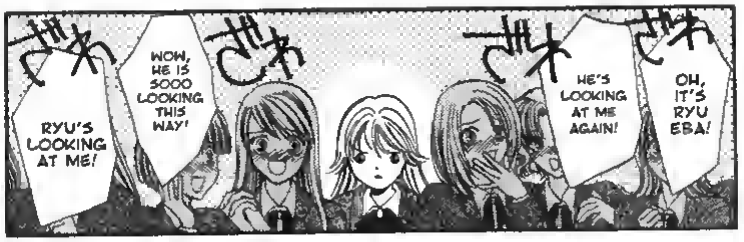
NEVER MIND HER THOUGH... LET'S GO SEE THE SOPHO-MORE CLASS!
I WANNA SEE RYU EBA!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D LET SOMEONE LIKE HER IN THIS SCHOOL. THERE'S NO ROOM HERE FOR SOMEONE WHO ISN'T A STAR OR GOING TO BE ONE SOON. SHE COULDN'T EVEN SCORE A DATE WITH A STAR!
HEE HEE HEE!
FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL AND SHE'S ACTUALLY FALLING ASLEEP?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL?
I KNOW NOT EVERYBODY HERE IS A PERFORMER, BUT STILL...
...SHE DOESN'T LOOK VERY COOL.
PLUS, I SAW SOME GIRLS FROM ANOTHER CLASS GO BY THERE.
We'll just happen to follow them, you know?
NAH, I THINK IT'S OKAY. THIS PLACE SEEMS PRETTY LAID BACK.
OH, NO, REALLY?
BUT I THINK IT'S AGAINST THE RULES FOR US TO GO OVER THERE
What?
Oops!
I THINK THAT GIRL HEARD US TALKING ABOUT HER.
No way! Ryu goes to this school now, too?!
Yeah, well, I might be the one! You never know
WELL THEN! LET'S GO INTRODUCE RYU TO THE WOMAN OF HIS DREAMS!
WHATEVER! HA HA, YOU HEARD HIM. HE'S WAITING FOR DESTINY.


RYU EBA! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!
OH GOSH, HE'S LOOKING AT ME!!
RYU'S LOOKING AT ME. OH, WOW!
WHOA, DID YOU SEE THAT? HE LOOKED AT ME!

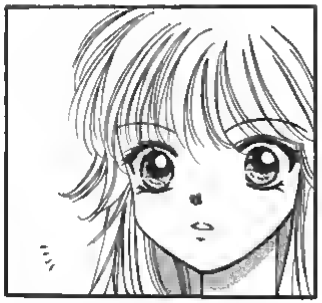
...
That jerk!!
Ignoring me, is he?!

竜様あっ
Heeeey! Ryu!!
?!
What the...?

?!
Hey! Ryu, we need to talk!!



HE LOOKED RIGHT INTO MY EYES!
WOW!!
You ignore me first, and NOW you're giving me dirty looks!
Yeah, so stop standing around. Do cont
He's watching us!
RYU !!
God! I can't believe we go to his school now!!
He's SO hot!



He totally blew me off back there.

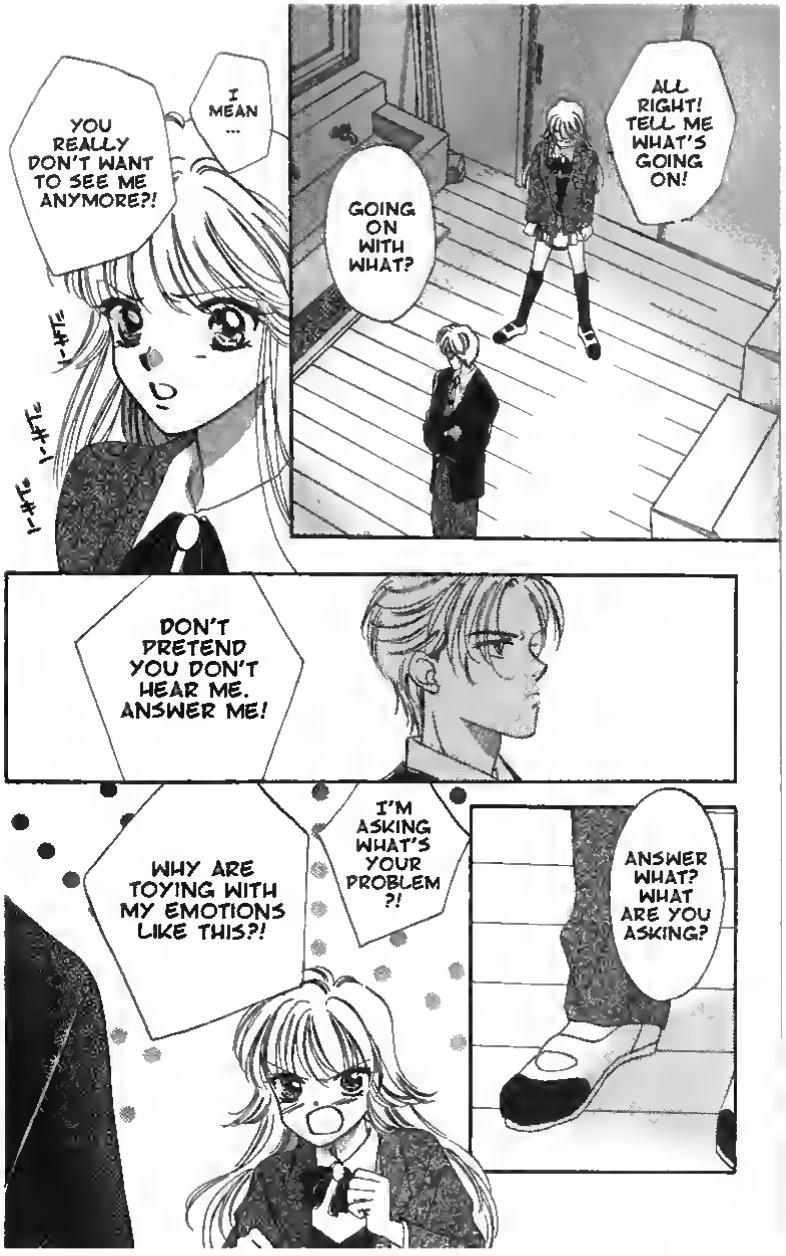
We hung out all the time over vacation! And now suddenly he has nothing to do with me. What a creep!

AND SO WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME THE NEW INCOMING STUDENTS CONGRATULATIONS ON STARTING HIGH SCHOOL
NEW STUDENTS, PLEASE HAVE A SEAT .

HMPH!

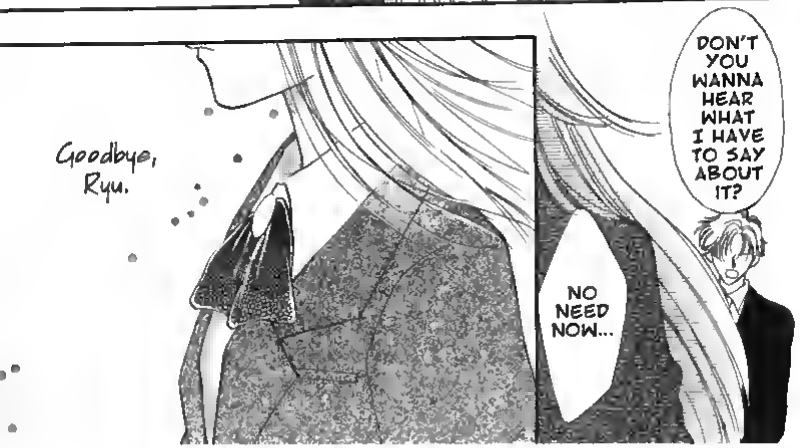
ガキ
WHAT? YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO HANG WITH US 'CAUSE WE'RE NOT THESPIANS LIKE YOU, MR AWARD-WINNER?!
NOT INTERESTED, PRETTY BOY.
HEY, RYU! IF YOU'RE FREE, YOU OUGHTTA COME HANG WITH US TONIGHT!
WE'LL HAVE THE LADIES SCREAMING FOR US HOT GIRLS EVERYWHERE!
I SAID I'M NOT INTERESTED, SO JUST DROP IT.
OWW! WHAT THE--?!
!!

WHAT? YOU WANNA FIGHT ABOUT IT?
ミサト
HI-YA!
ガバッ
AND YOU SAID ALL THAT STUFF TO ME BEFORE LIKE, "I'M RIGHT HERE" AND "I'M A REAL GUY"...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE, THAT'S FINE, BUT JUST BE A MAN AND SAY IT!
YOU SUDDENLY MOVE OUT OF YOUR APART-MENT...
...AND I DON'T SEE YOU FOR NO GOOD REASON.
IT...IT SEEMS LIKE MAYBE YOU STARTED SEEING ANOTHER GIRL.
I'LL TELL YOU NOW, THOUGH...
...I'M A LITTLE UPSET.


YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE ME ANYMORE?!
I MEAN ...
ミサト
ALL RIGHT! TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!
GOING ON WITH WHAT?
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T HEAR ME. ANSWER ME!
WHY ARE TOY!NG WITH MY EMOTIONS LIKE THIS?!
I'M ASKING WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM ?!
ANSWER WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU ASKING?

...IF THAT'S THE CASE
W-WELL

...OR IT'LL WIND UP BEING FRONT-PAGE NEWS ON ALL THE TABLOIDS.
...YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU DO THAT KIND OF THING...


Goodbye, Ryu.
NO NEED NOW...
DON'T YOU WANNA HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT?

HEH HEH! I SHOULD'VE GUESSED YOU'D ALREADY KNOW ABOUT IT.
WOULD YOU BE JEALOUS IF I DATED SOME OTHER GIRL?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
ARE YOU JEALOUS?

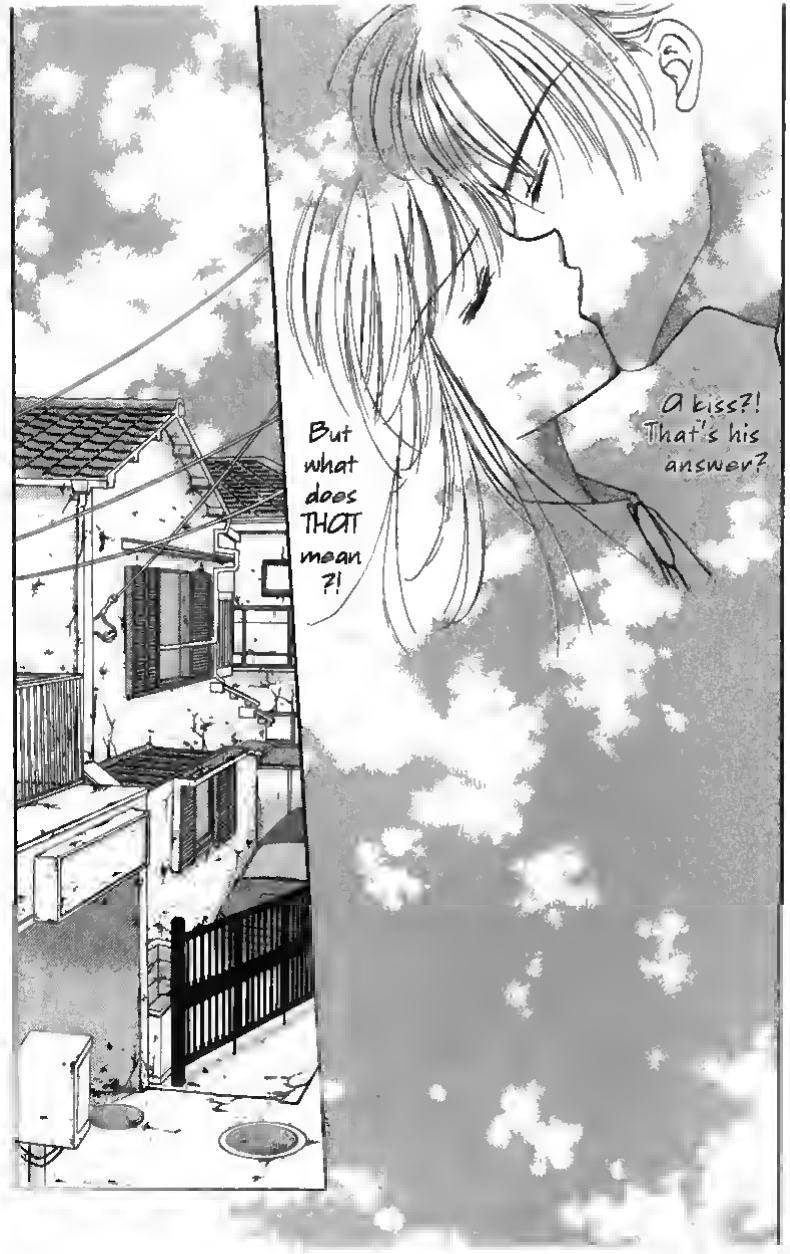
AHH... ARE YOU REALLY CRYING?!

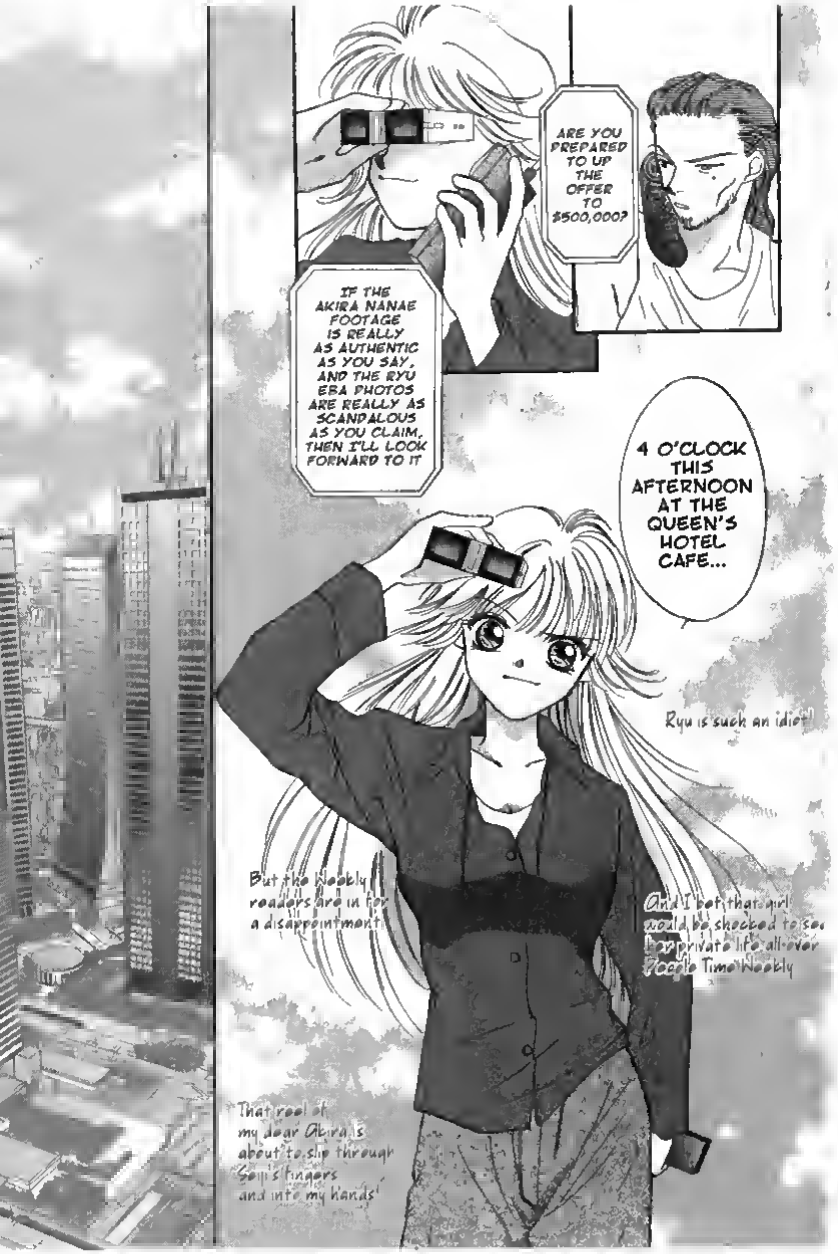
Now I can see exactly what Sanae meant...
about what it means to date an actor.
He really did make me believe anything... even that he loved me.
WAIT A MINUTE, YUNIKO?!

THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT...

MMM...
OH!

During that week we were apart, Ryu was out with some other girl
Not only does he admit it, but he kisses me and says, "That's what I have to say about it".
In other words, there IS another girl but he still wants to see me TOO?
Sure, I can do that! 'Cause I'm such a stud!
Anything for you Ryu!
Let's get it on
SCREW YOU, RYU EBA!!
MEANING THAT I'M BASICALLY SUPPOSED TO BE THE UNDERCOVER GIRL?!
YOU HAD THE NERVE TO FAKE SOME REAL LOVE CONFESSION TO ME, TOO .. ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT BEING A "REAL GUY" AND BEING "RIGHT HERE" FOR ME!
I PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO NOBODY!
YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE POPULAR, GIRLS WILL JUST DO WHATEVER YOU SAY?!


A kiss?! That's his answer?
But what does THAT mean?!

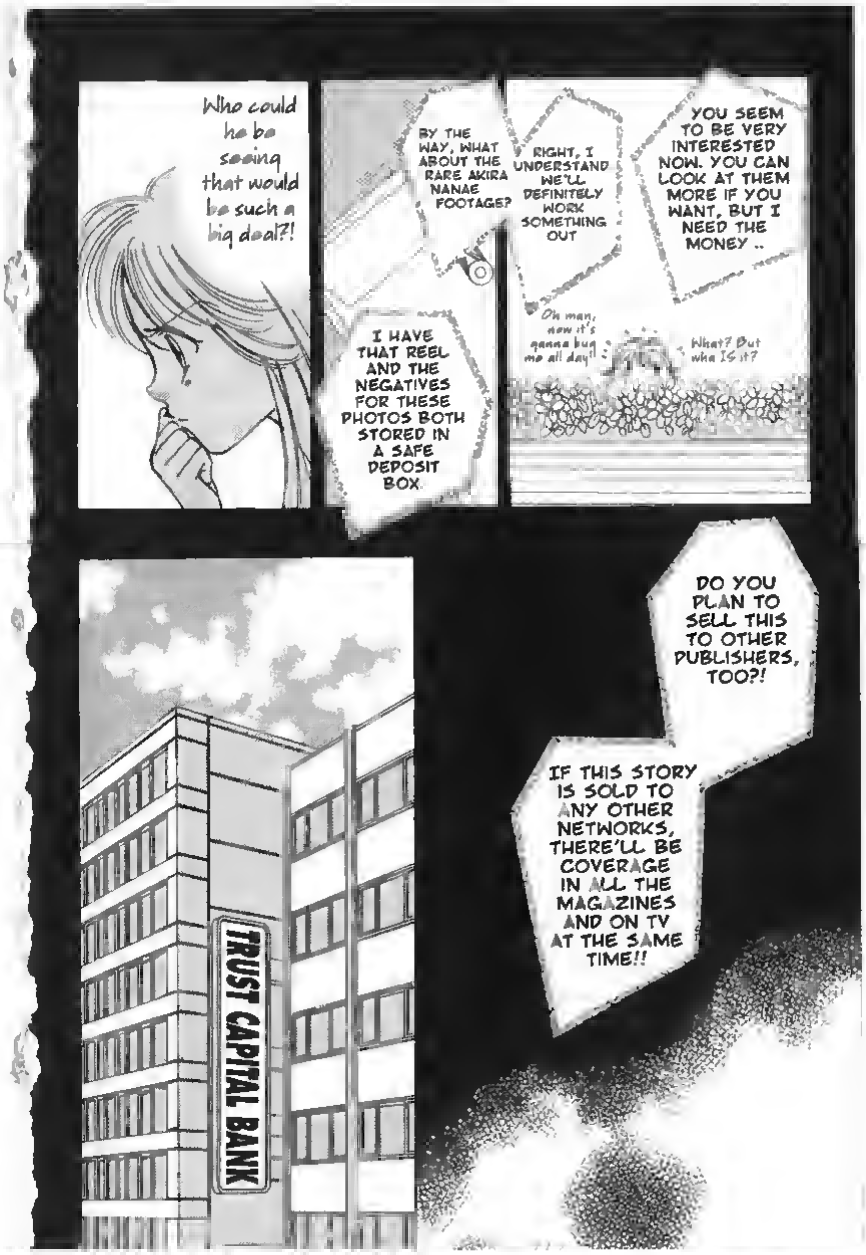

ARE YOU PREPARED TO UP THE OFFER TO $500,000?
IF THE AKIRA NANAE FOOTAGE IS REALLY AS AUTHENTIC AS YOU SAY, AND THE RYU ERA PHOTOS ARE REALLY AS SCANDALOUS AS YOU CLAIM, THEN I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT
4 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON AT THE QUEEN'S HOTEL CAFE...
Ryu is such an idiot!
But the Weekly readers are in for a disappointment
That reel of my dear Akira is about to slip through Sou's fingers and into my hands!
Ohh I bet that girl would be shocked to see her private life all over People Time Weekly

PPPPPP
!
THE TELEPHONE!
I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM A KUNG FU BEATING NEXT TIME I SEE HIM. WHENEVER THAT IS...
WEEKLY People Time
LET'S ARRANGE TO MEET THIS AFTERNOON AT 4PM AT THE QUEEN'S HOTEL CAFE. IS THAT GOOD FOR YOU?
THIS IS OKADA FROM PEOPLE TIME WEEKLY ...
That's the guy with Akira's screen test reel and the scandalous photos of Ryu with that girl! Sou Ogawa
Ryu

He only brought that thin envelope with him. Looks like he didn't bring the screen test reel after all.
THE SHOCKING PART ABOUT HIM DATING THIS GIRL IS WHO THE GIRL IS!
WELL, IT FOLLOWS UP NICELY ON THAT RYU EBA ARTICLE YOU JUST RAN, BUT ALSO...
Hmm...
THESE ARE OKAY PHOTOS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A FIRST DATE OR SOMETHING.
WHAT'S SO SHOCKING ABOUT HIM DATING A GIRL?
WHAT'D I TELL YA? AMAZING, HUH? $500,000 TO BE THE FIRST WITH A SCOOP LIKE THIS IS PRETTY CHEAP. DON'T YOU THINK?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
Oh my gosh, Ryu.. What are you doing? Is she really THAT amazing?
THERE... CHECK THE FILE.
DON'T LEAK THIS INFORMATION TO ANYONE ELSE..
What? Somebody say something?
I'm new another celebrity? A model maybe?
?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WH--

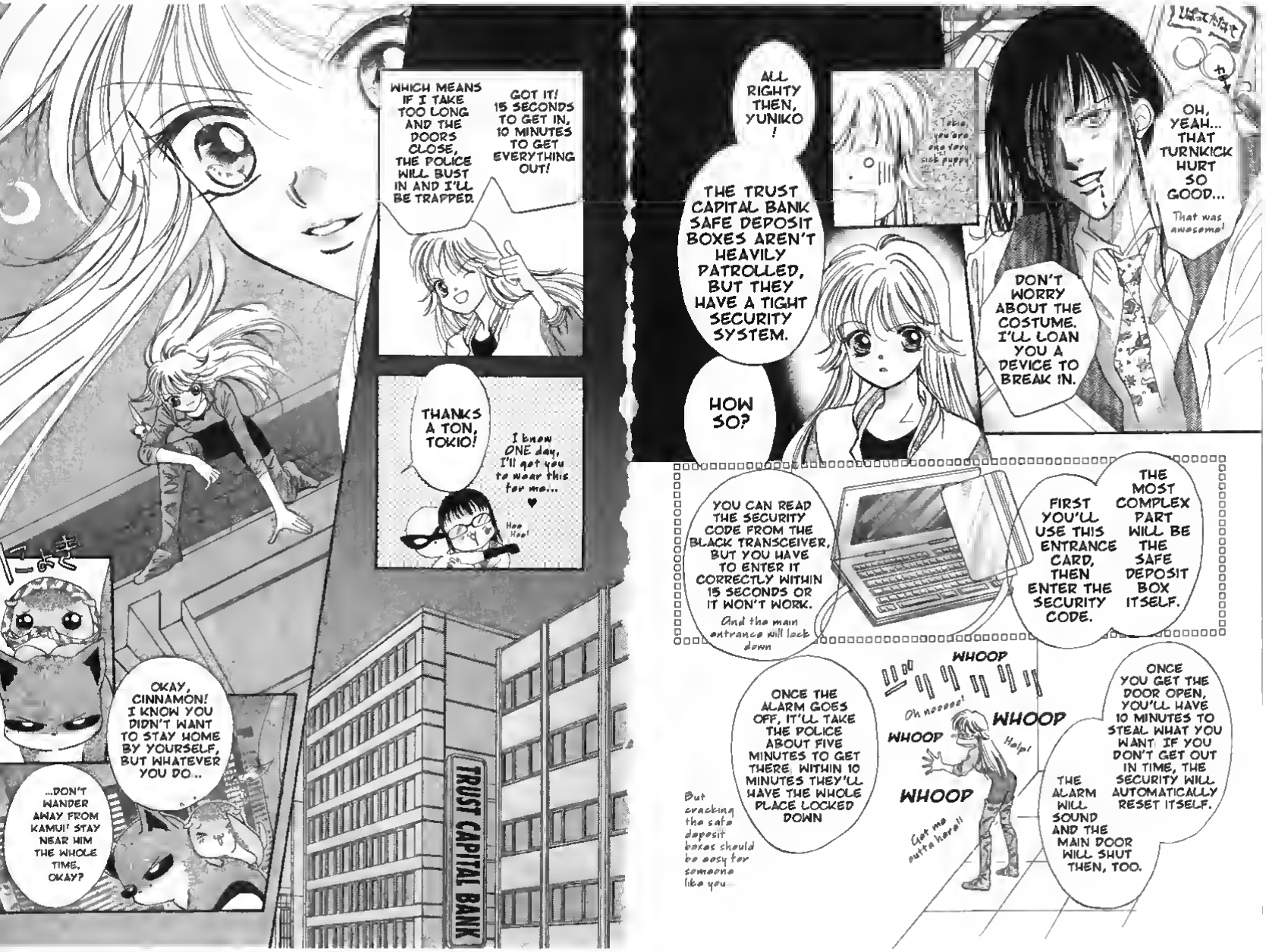
OH! EXCUSE ME!
Queen's Hotel Cafe
Transmitter
UM, I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE, SO I'LL JUST HAVE WATER UNTIL THEY GET HERE.
WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU?
I'M EAGER TO TAKE A LOOK AT THESE PHOTOS.
Nice to meet you

A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX, HUH?
MAKES SENSE... MUCH SAFER THAN THAT RUNDOWN APART-MENT!
...I'VE GOT TO GET IT OUT OF THERE BEFORE HE SELLS IT TO THAT MAGAZINE PUBLI-SHER.
I'm kinda running low on cheap hero, but
BUT I STILL WISH I KNEW WHO THE GIRL IN THE PHOTOS WAS.
IF A SIMPLE DATE IS REALLY THAT BIG OF A DEAL, SHE MUST BE A HUGE STAR...
A pop singer maybe? An actress? A famous athlete or something?
I guess I won't know 'til I steal the reel and photos. I'll have to take a look for myself.

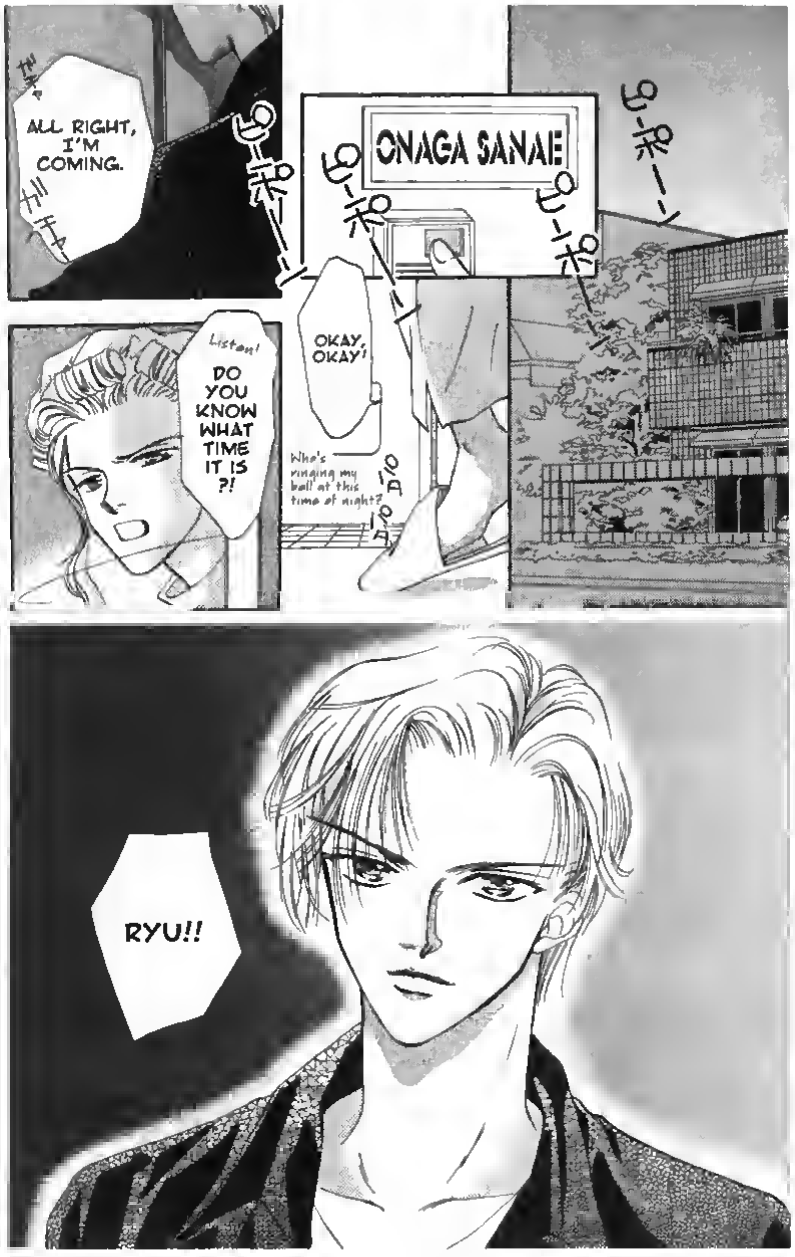

Who could be seeing that would be such a big deal?!
BY THE WAY, WHAT ABOUT THE RARE AKIRA NANAE FOOTAGE?
RIGHT, I UNDERSTAND WE'LL DEFINITELY WORK SOMETHING OUT
YOU SEEM TO BE VERY INTERESTED NOW. YOU CAN LOOK AT THEM MORE IF YOU WANT, BUT I NEED THE MONEY ..
I HAVE THAT REEL AND THE NEGATIVES FOR THESE PHOTOS BOTH STORED IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX.
Oh man, now it's gonna bug me all day!!
What? But who IS it?
TRUST CAPITAL BANK
DO YOU PLAN TO SELL THIS TO OTHER PUBLISHERS, TOO?!
IF THIS STORY IS SOLD TO ANY OTHER NETWORKS, THERE'LL BE COVERAGE IN ALL THE MAGAZINES AND ON TV AT THE SAME TIME!!

NOW, YUNIKO, I'M NOT THAT KIND OF GUY!
WHAT'S THAT? YOU DON'T MEAN LIKE A SEXUAL FAVOR, DO YOU?
YOU'RE ASKING ME FOR A FAVOR, RIGHT?
I'LL GIVE YOU A DEVICE TO CRACK THESE OPEN IF YOU DO A FAVOR FOR ME...
THAT DEFINITELY COUNTS AS A SEXUAL FAVOR!
YEEaah!
I JUST WANT YOU TO WEAR A COSTUME I MADE FOR YOU WHEN YOU GO OUT TONIGHT. THAT'S ALL!
WHATEVER! I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO DO IT ON MY OWN. SEE YA!
WAIT, MY DARLING YUNIKO
I AM NOT WEARING THAT!!
Aaaaw
IF YOU DON'T WEAR IT AT LEAST ONCE FOR ME, I'M NOT GONNA LEND YOU ANY GADGETS.
Let me take a picture with you in it! Yes

A DEVICE THAT CAN OPEN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX?!
Yeah! Yeah!
I KNOW IF ANYBODY CAN MAKE ONE, IT'S YOU, TOKIO! RIGHT?
I'M SURE YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING YOU CAN GIVE ME TO BREAK INTO ONE, RIGHT? PRETTY PLEASE...
With whipped cream and a cherry on top?
OOOH! OF COURSE I DO!
GOT IT.
WHICH KIND ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WELL, YOU SURE MAKE IT SOUND EASY. BUT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES
THE ONES AT TRUST CAPITAL BANK—THE DOWNTOWN BRANCH. YOU KNOW?
OKAY ...

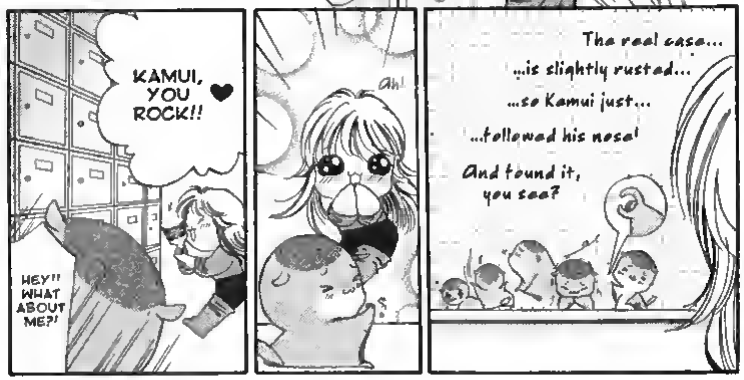

TRUST CAPITAL BANK
OKAY, CINNAMON! I KNOW YOU DIDN'T WANT TO STAY HOME BY YOURSELF, BUT WHATEVER YOU DO...
...DON'T WANDER AWAY FROM KAMUI! STAY NEAR HIM THE WHOLE TIME, OKAY?
WHICH MEANS IF I TAKE TOO LONG AND THE DOORS CLOSE, THE POLICE WILL BUST IN AND I'LL BE TRAPPED.
GOT IT! 15 SECONDS TO GET IN, 10 MINUTES TO GET EVERYTHING OUT!
THANKS A TON, TOKIO!
I know ONE day, I'll get you to wear this for me... ♥
Hee Hee!
ALL RIGHTY THEN, YUNIKO!
THE TRUST CAPITAL BANK SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES AREN'T HEAVILY PATROLLED, BUT THEY HAVE A TIGHT SECURITY SYSTEM.
HOW SO?
Tokio, you're one very sick puppy!
OH, YEAH... THAT TURNKICK HURT SO GOOD...
That was awesome!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COSTUME. I'LL LOAN YOU A DEVICE TO BREAK IN.
YOU CAN READ THE SECURITY CODE FROM THE BLACK TRANSCEIVER, BUT YOU HAVE TO ENTER IT CORRECTLY WITHIN 15 SECONDS OR IT WON'T WORK.
And the main entrance will lock down
FIRST YOU'LL USE THIS ENTRANCE CARD, THEN ENTER THE SECURITY CODE.
THE MOST COMPLEX PART WILL BE THE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ITSELF.
ONCE THE ALARM GOES OFF, IT'LL TAKE THE POLICE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES TO GET THERE. WITHIN 10 MINUTES THEY'LL HAVE THE WHOLE PLACE LOCKED DOWN
But cracking the safe deposit boxes should be easy for someone like you...
WHOOP
WHOOP
WHOOP
WHOOP
Oh nooooo!
Help!
Get me outta here!!
ONCE YOU GET THE DOOR OPEN, YOU'LL HAVE 10 MINUTES TO STEAL WHAT YOU WANT. IF YOU DON'T GET OUT IN TIME, THE SECURITY WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESET ITSELF.
THE ALARM WILL SOUND AND THE MAIN DOOR WILL SHUT THEN, TOO.

TRUST CAPITAL BANK
HUH? Wha?
YES, NOW A MOMENT OF SILENCE...
Huh? What?
Dear God, let me find Akira Nanao's
OH! I THOUGHT I'D FORGOTTEN SOMETHING! I FORGOT TO SAY A PRAYER!
I ALWAYS DO THAT BEFORE I SET OUT ON A JOB!
THIS MUST BE IT.

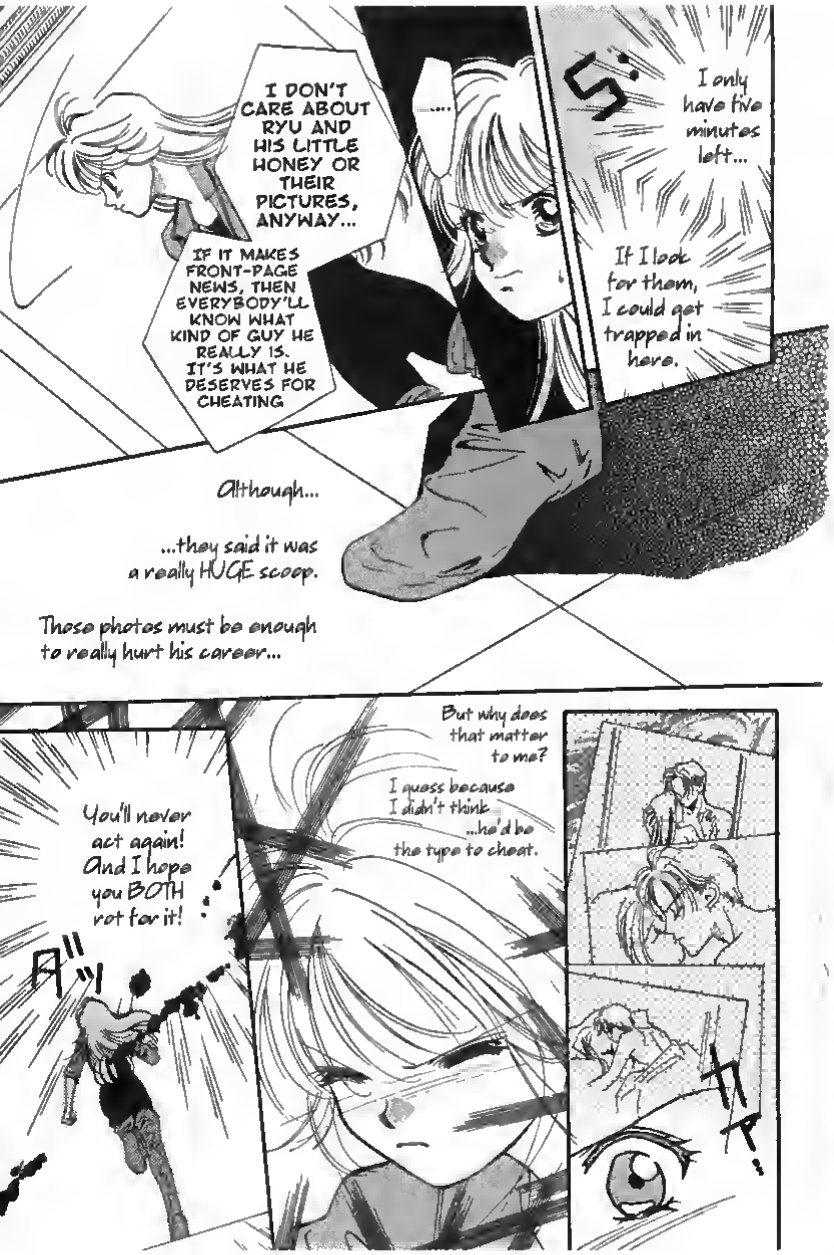

ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING.
ONAGA SANAE
Who's ringing my bell at this time of night?
OKAY, OKAY!
Listen!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?!
RYU!!

BAM!
HOW CAN I TELL WHICH ONE HAS THE REEL IN IT?!

Elementary, dear Yuri! Let me explain it to you.
HOW'D YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?
THIS ONE?
OH?


KAMUI, YOU ROCK!!
HEY!! WHAT ABOUT ME?!
Ah!
The real case...
...is slightly rusted...
...so Kamui just...
...followed his nose!
And found it, you see?

OKAY! I'VE GOT 10 MINUTES NOW TO GET WHAT I WANT!
2...2...
7...
8...6...
9...5...
2795
6403
HOLY COW! WHAT KIND OF BANK IS THIS?!
OH, YEAH. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED "SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES," HUH?


I DON'T CARE ABOUT RYU AND HIS LITTLE HONEY OR THEIR PICTURES, ANYWAY...
.....
I only have five minutes left...
IF IT MAKES FRONT-PAGE NEWS, THEN EVERYBODY'LL KNOW WHAT KIND OF GUY HE REALLY IS. IT'S WHAT HE DESERVES FOR CHEATING
If I look for them, I could get trapped in here.
Although...
...they said it was a really HUGE scoop.
Those photos must be enough to really hurt his career...
But why does that matter to me?
I guess because I didn't think ...he'd be the type to cheat.
You'll never act again! And I hope you BOTH rot for it!

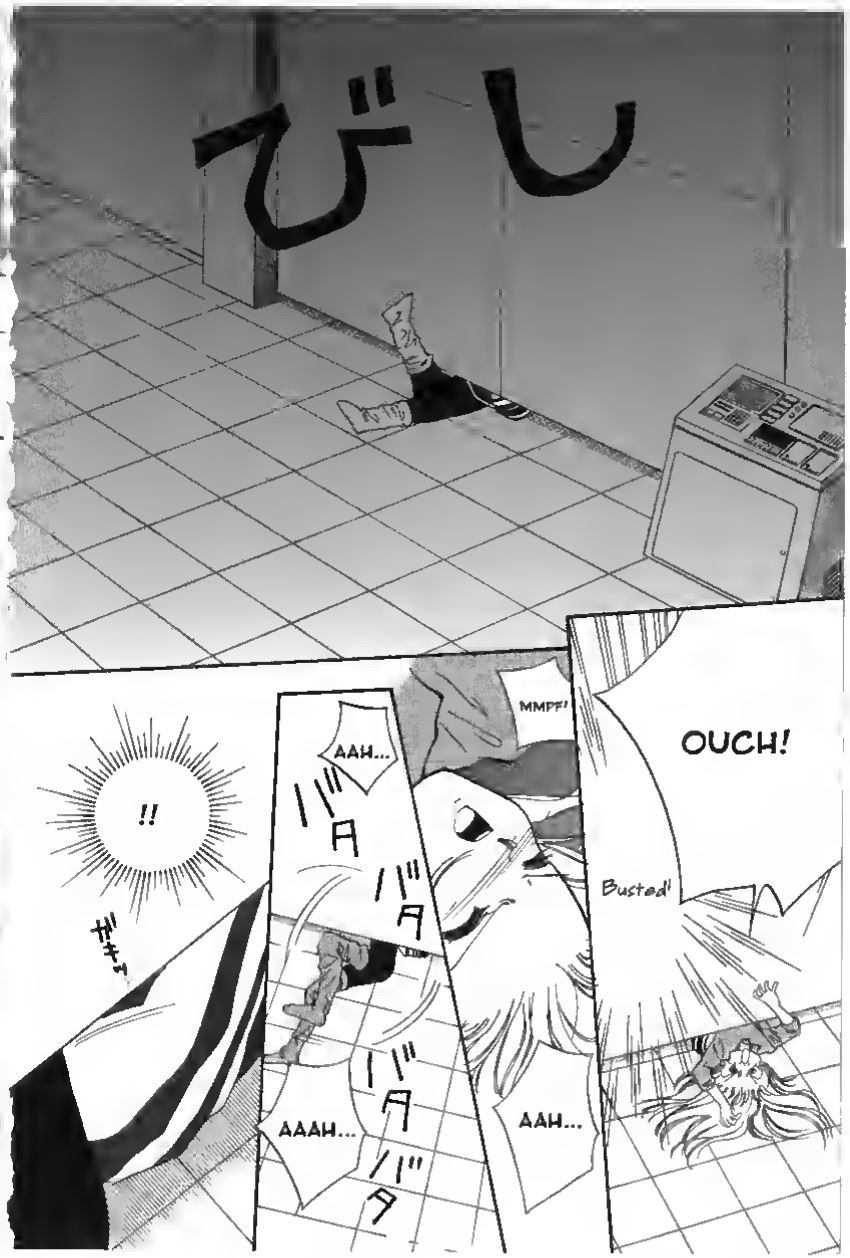
WHAT ?
?!
YOU WERE RIGHT! SCORE!!
IS THIS ALL ?!
The photos and negatives of Ryu aren't here!!
No way! Don't tell me they're in a DIFFERENT safe deposit box!!
!!

NOT HERE EITHER...
COME ON! WHERE ARE THOSE PHOTOS...?
I'm out of time!!
00:12
Do I really have to just give up?!
An envelope!
Okay
It's really gonna bug me if I don't get those pictures!
Okay, I didn't mean that!
カバーッ?
I'VE GOT THREE MINUTES LEFT!
4-6
3:02
IT HAS TO BE STORED CLOSE TO WHERE THE REEL WAS.
ALL RIGHT, I CAN DO THIS!
2:18
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU WILL BE AN ENCOUNTER YOU WON'T SOON FORGET!
HEH HEH.. RYU EBA NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL BETRAYED!

GO, KAMUI!!
GO GO GO GO!
WHOA! IT'S CLOSING SOONER THAN I THOUGHT!
I CAN MAKE IT!!

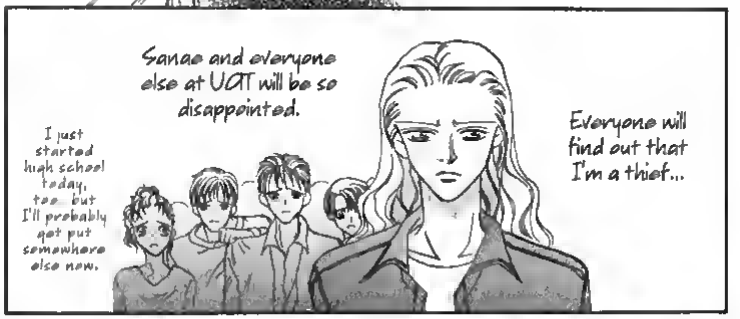
2
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
1
5
YES!!
FOUND THEM!!
OH NO! THE MAIN DOOR!
4
3

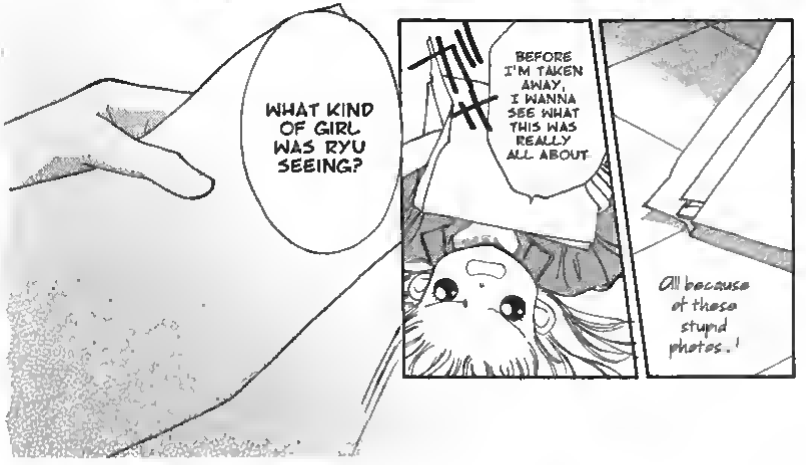
OH NO, IF I MOVE TOO MUCH MORE, I MIGHT CRUSH THE REEL!
WAS THAT THE REEL CASE?
はぁ
Dammit! I'm really trapped now!


びし
!!
ガチャ
AAH...
MMPF!
OUCH!
Busted!
AAAH...
AAH...

It's... ME!!
These photos are from the night I stayed at his apartment!!

When the officers come in, maybe I can get away using my Kung Fu
Yeah, right! I'm probably not THAT good especially right now
IT'S BECAUSE I FORGOT TO PRAY...
SIGH!
KAMUI, GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE COMES
I'LL BE OKAY.. I'M CAUGHT BUT I WON'T DIE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME


I just started high school today, too. but I'll probably get put somewhere else now.
Sanae and everyone else at UCAT will be so disappointed.
Everyone will find out that I'm a thief...


WHAT KIND OF GIRL WAS RYU SEEING?
BEFORE I'M TAKEN AWAY, I WANNA SEE WHAT THIS WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT
All because of these stupid photos.!

HOW ABOUT IF I LET YOU CALL ME THAT BASTARD AKIRA A THIRD TIME? THEN DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU OUT?
ARE YOU REALLY JUST GIVING UP LIKE THAT?
HELLO, YUNIKO.
RYU!

BECAUSE I'M MAIKO SAKURA'S DAUGHTER, I BET.
But. WHY IS THAT SUCH A BIG STORY?
The girl everyone says Ryu's been seeing is ME?!
THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT—.
So Ryu thought I already KNEW about these photos!
OH!
HOW STUPID COULD I BE?!
I was right the first time Ryu isn't the kind of guy to mess around with lots of girls
I was just so jealous, I didn't think straight
JEEZ, I DESERVE TO GET CAUGHT AND BE TAKEN AWAY.

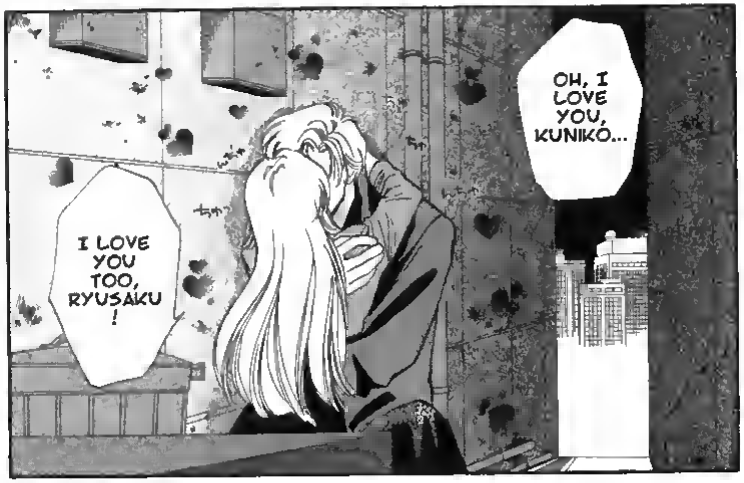
RYU, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
TRUST CAPITAL BAN

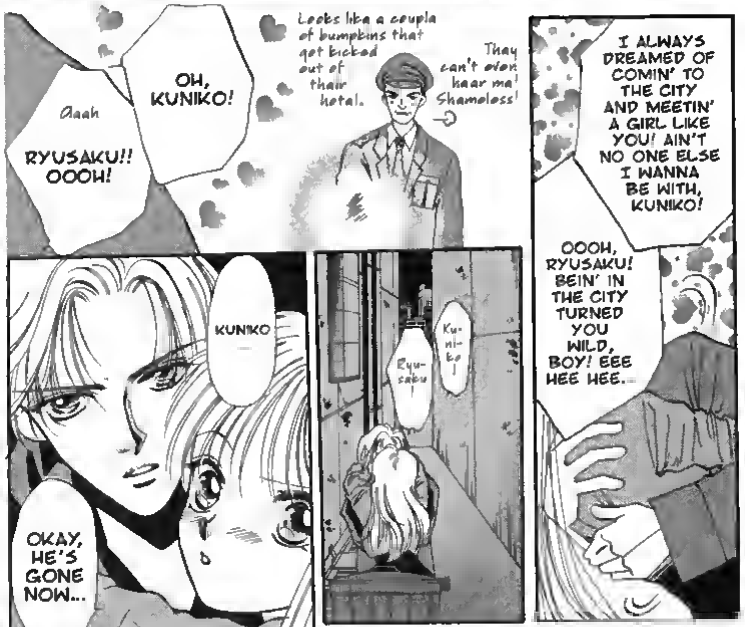
I THOUGHT I WAS SCREWED BACK THERE.
WE'RE OKAY IN THIS ALLEY FOR A MINUTE.
WHOOP
Okay, we're here now
WHOOP
WHOOP
THANK YOU...
...FOR HELPING ME OUT OF THERE.

WHO DO YOU THINK I WAS TRYING TO HELP WHEN I GOT STUCK LIKE THIS?!
SAY... YOU LOOK CUTE LIKE THIS, YUNIKO.
THAT'S NO WAY TO THANK SOMEBODY FOR COMING TO SAVE YOU!
Your high kicks are brutal, too! Don't do that again
YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER
OH! AND BE CAREFUL WITH THE BAG, WILL YA? AKIRA'S SCREEN TEST IS IN IT!
FINE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HELP ME OUT OF HERE!
A' A" A' A" A' A"

OH, CRAP!
POLICE!!
HEY, OVER THERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?! IF WE WERE BOTH CAUGHT BREAKING INTO A BANK TOGETHER, THAT'D BE AN EVEN BIGGER SCANDAL!
Do you care about your acting career?

I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU GETTING THOSE PHOTOS FOR ME...EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THE GIRL IN THEM.
THANK YOU.
Oops! I wanted to use them against him since I thought he cheated on me, but I won't mention that part
BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW I'D BE HERE AT THIS BANK?
MY AGENT KNEW THE PHOTOS OF YOU HAD BEEN TAKEN...
...AND THAT A GUY NAMED SEIJI OGAWA WAS TRYING TO SELL THEM, ALONG WITH SOME RARE AKIRA NANAE FOOTAGE SO...
...I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T BE FAR BEHIND!
SO I CAME TO SEE WHAT HE HAD ON ME, AND THERE YOU WERE! PINNED TO THE FLOOR BY THE SECURITY DOOR...
NEXT THING YOU KNEW, I WAS IN THERE WITH YOU!


OH, I LOVE YOU, KUNIKO...
I LOVE YOU TOO, RYUSAKU!


Aaah
OH, KUNIKO!
RYUSAKU!! OOOH!
Looks like a coupla of bumpkins that got kicked out of their hotel.
They can't even haar ma! Shameless!
I ALWAYS DREAMED OF COMIN' TO THE CITY AND MEETIN' A GIRL LIKE YOU! AIN'T NO ONE ELSE I WANNA BE WITH, KUNIKO!
OOOH, RYUSAKU! BEIN' IN THE CITY TURNED YOU WILD, BOY! EEE HEE HEE..
KUNIKO
OKAY, HE'S GONE NOW...
Ryu-saku!
Ku-ni-ko!

HEY!
?!
JUST PLAY ALONG!! HE'S WATCHING!
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE FRISKY, RYU!
YOU TWO OVER THERE!
WHAT THE...?

RYU...
ぱっ
じーっ
Awww you two are so cute!
キルク

SHH! DON'T YELL!
THAT WAS A HORRIBLE ACCENT YOU PUT ON!
Oh, my sides!
BWA HA HA HA HA!
OH YEAH... SO WHERE WERE WE?

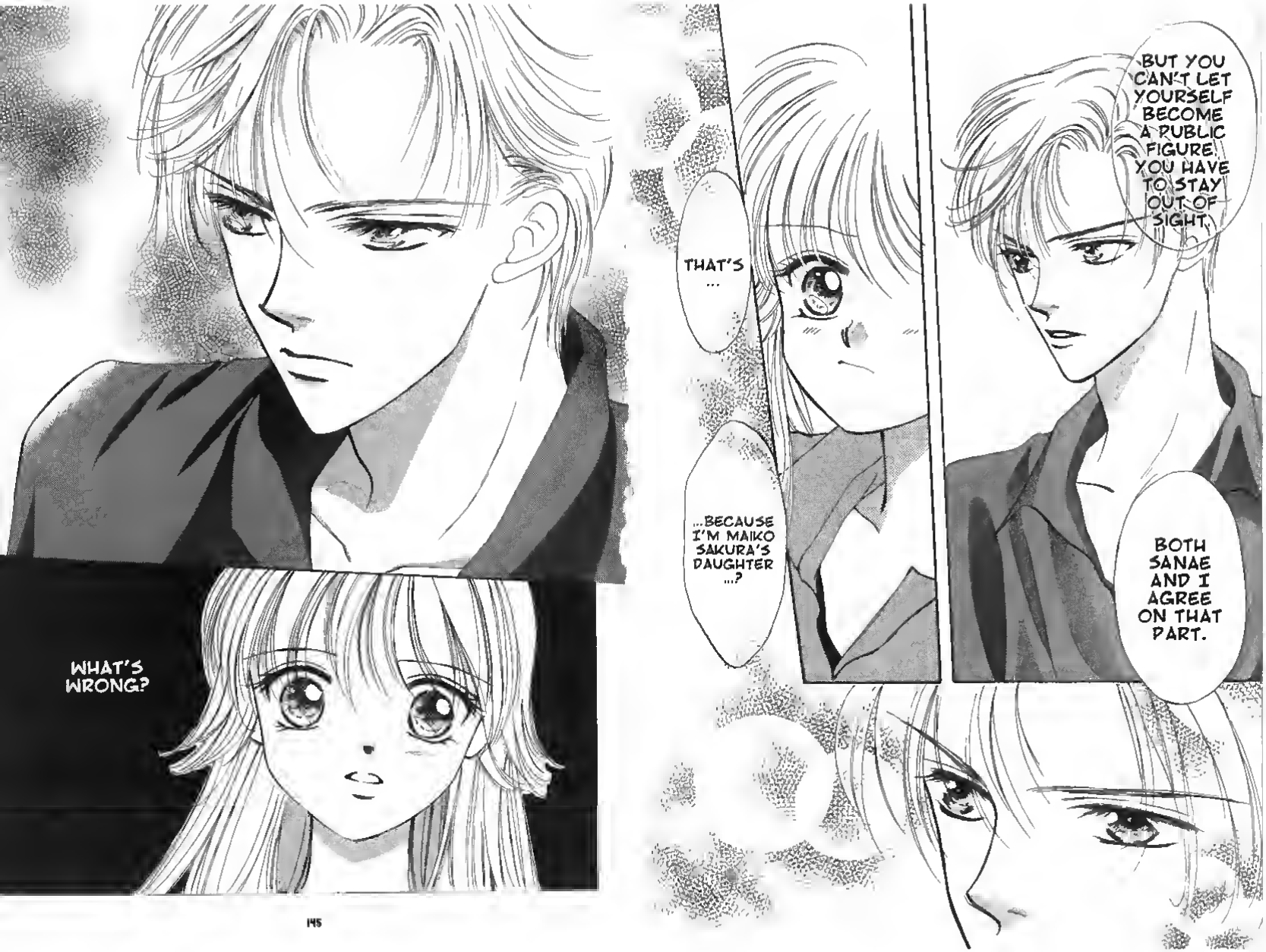
I actually thought, "I want him to kiss me"... and then he did.
I PARKED MY BIKE AROUND ON THE OTHER SIDE.

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY BACK THERE!
Kamui's embrace is so warm
HERE'S WHERE YOU WERE HIDING!
Don't you call me that anymore!
My name is Cinnamon!
HEY, LEAKY, WHAT'S UP?
That kiss felt so natural, so right..
I mean...
OKAY, LET'S GO.
YEAH!
Wow... what a surprise.

I can't believe this!! No way!!
I PROMISE I'LL BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR NOW, YUNIKO.
MAN, THE NEIGHBORS ARE GONNA THINK I'M GETTING LUCKY OUT HERE! KEEP IT DOWN!
!!
YOU MEAN YOU...
I LEFT MY PRIVATE AGENT AND NOW I'M JOINING UAT.
?!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BRING ME ALL THE WAY TO MY PLACE.
SHH... DON'T BE SO LOUD!
WE DON'T WANNA WAKE UP SANAE.
NO..BUT HE TOLD US NOT TO SEE EACH OTHER YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE. HE AND I WORKED IT OUT...
...SINCE I AM LIVING IN THIS BUILDING WITH YOU GUYS NOW.

What on earth could've changed Ryu's mind? And Sanae's, too?!
I don't believe this!
WE'LL ANNOUNCE TO THE PRESS THAT I'M JOINING UAT...
...THEN EVERYONE WILL THINK THAT WAS THE "BIG SCOOP" OGAWA WAS TRYING TO SELL THEM.
SO ANYWAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THESE PHOTOS EITHER...
THEY WON'T EVER BE PUBLISHED NOW.
SILLY GIRL, DID YOU THINK IT WAS ALL FOR YOU??
Hey! Ow!
OH!!
IS THAT REALLY WHY THEY LET YOU TRANSFER? I GET IT NOW...

BUT, WHY SUDDENLY ...?
I FELT LIKE A CHANGE...
I'M STILL CONTRACTED TO GO BACK TO MY AGENT AFTER FIVE YEARS HERE.
I WANT TO STUDY ACTING LIVE ON STAGE NOW. I WANT SOMETHING NEW.
WAIT, SO WHY'D YOU TRANSFER TO UAT...
I THOUGHT YOU HATED THE IDEA OF AKIRA NANAE'S OLD THEATRE GROUP?!
I'm sure I'm not half-asleep again...!
AND YOUR AGENT IS OKAY WITH THIS, TOO?
HE WON'T TELL US NOT TO SEE EACH OTHER.
ACTUALLY, HE AGREES NOW.
...AS LONG AS WE DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN SOME TABLOID CIRCUS.
BUT SANAE ...

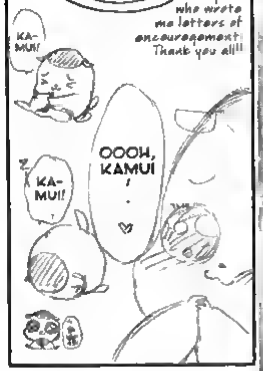

WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S ...
...BECAUSE I'M MAIKO SAKURA'S DAUGHTER ...?
BUT YOU CAN'T LET YOURSELF BECOME A RUBLIC FIGURE. YOU HAVE TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT.
BOTH SANAE AND I AGREE ON THAT PART.

I GUESS SANAE DOESN'T KNOW. NO ONE AT UAT KNOWS EITHER...
UM... ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW WHO MY FATHER IS.
MY MOTHER GOT PREGNANT ACCIDENTALLY, I SUPPOSE...
BY THE WAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER?
YOU NEVER TRIED TO GUESS WHO YOUR DAD IS? OR FIND OUT ABOUT HIM?
IT'S TERRIBLE TO THINK MY MOTHER GOT SO SICK, AND HE NEVER EVEN SHOWED UP ONCE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO ME...
...SO I DON'T THINK ABOUT HIM.
NEVER.
DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE WILL BE ALL OVER TV.
Oh, I know, Yumi. She was always a sneaky girl.
Witness, Ms. Ai
Please answer a few questions for us, Ms Sakuraba!
PAPARAZZI WILL FOLLOW YOU ALL AROUND, EVEN AT SCHOOL, TRYING TO GET PICTURES OF US DOING SOMETHING BAD.
REPORTERS WILL BE WAITING BY YOUR DOORSTEP TRYING TO MISQUOTE YOU
PEOPLE AROUND YOU WILL ALL TALK BEHIND YOUR BACK AND COMPLAIN AND THREATEN YOU...
Go to HELL!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF PEOPLE MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT ME HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH MAKO SAKURA'S DAUGHTER?
Ooo-ooh nooo-ooo...
That would suck!
WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN YOUR BUSINESS, SOMEONE IS BOUND TO FIND OUT THAT YOU STEAL TO COLLECT AKIRA NANAE'S OLD BELONGINGS
THEN EVERYONE WOULD KNOW THAT YOUR PARENTS...

Cinnamon's Data

Cinnaman was born last spring. She's a Korean Tailick flying squirrel. She's calica, but mast of her body fur is the colar of cinnaman. She dreams of ane day becaming Kamui's mate.

To everyone who wrote me letters of encouragement. Thank you all!!



Lately, Ryu has a serious look on his face.

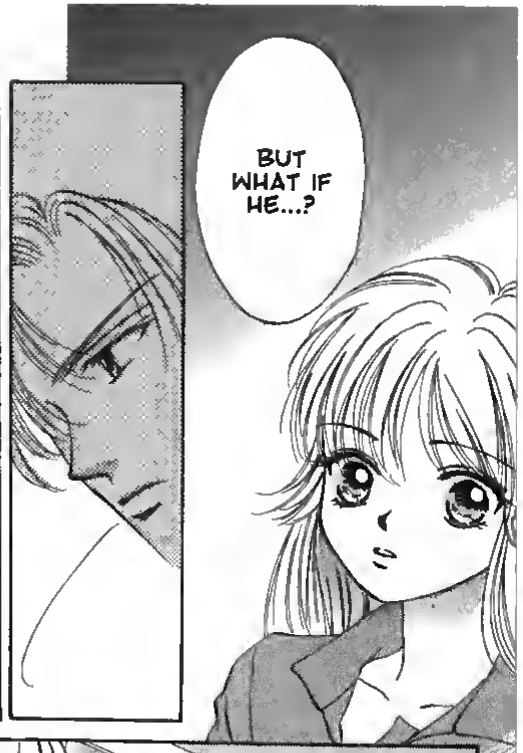
He was so against Nanae, but now he's transferring to UAT?

Sure, he wants to cover up that big story, but would that really make him move into the same apartment building as me?

Something is definitely strange here

I just don't know how far I should push the matter.

Is this part of some plan to stop me from collecting Akira's things?!



What the...? Now these two are having meals together?!
NEXT TIME I CATCH YOU IN HER BEDROOM, I'M TOSSING YOU OUT ON YOUR TUSH! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
I SAID YOU COULD COME BY FOR BREAK-FAST BUT THAT IS ALL!
This is getting more and more suspicious by the minute...
?!
ARE YOU TWO HIDING SOME-THING FROM ME?
UMM ...

Come on, Yun.
WAKE UP, LITTLE THIEF!
HE LOVES TO WORRY, DOESN'T HE?
DO YOU WANT TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL?!
YUN!! IT'S MORNING, YOU KNOW!
Last night, someone broke into Trust Capital Bank
HEY! GET OUTTA MY BED!
HER BED?!
THAT WORKED!
RYU, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN HER BEDROOM ?!
In the blink of an eye

A PROJECTOR FOR THIS KIND OF FILM?
YEAH. I CAN'T EXACTLY PUT THAT IN A VCR.
OH, SO HOW ABOUT I JUST COPY THIS ONTO A VHS TAPE? NO NEED FOR A WHOLE PROJECTOR
I'LL MAKE A COPY BY TONIGHT THEN.
THANK YOU, TOKI-BABY! YOU ROCK!
Sure thing. You don't even have to kick me this time
WAS THERE EVER ANYTHING THAT EVERYBODY AROUND ME TRIED TO KEEP SECRET?
YOU'VE KNOWN ME SINCE I WAS LITTLE, SO I HAVE A QUESTION.
YOU MEAN LIKE THE FACT THAT I ACTUALLY BUILT YOU TO BE MY ANDROID LOVER? THAT WAS A SECRET...
ALL RIGHT, IF THAT'S ALL, THEN BYE!

Such a smooth liar!
Natural, no matter what..
Of course, Ryu denies it
WHY'D YOU SAY THAT?
?
But Sanae can't hide it so well. His face shows that he's worried
ALL RIGHT, I'M HEADING OUT!
HEY, HANG ON! I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE TO SCHOOL.
No doubt about it! They're hiding something.
But what could be going on?!
WHAT?! NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO CAUSE A SCANDAL?!
ANYWAY, IF THOSE GIRLS SEE ME RIDE TO SCHOOL WITH YOU ON YOUR BIKE, I'LL BE DEAD BY LUNCH.

I know that you're Akira Nanae's daughter.

And I bet it has something to do with Ryu transferring to UCT
SAKURABA
I am definitely gonna figure out what's going on.
It IS a letter!!
Could this be...my first high school love letter?!
What's this?
A letter?
Grabs the note before it even hits the ground!
LOOK, LOOK!
I wonder if he's still around
I should've expected it... I am a high-schooler now...

OH MY GOSH! WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?!
I know that...
...you're Akira Nanae's...
Akira Nanae's daughter...

.....
WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS?
I know that you're Akira Nanae's daughter and that Maiko Sakura has amnesia. And I have more than enough proof now to publish it.

I'LL TAKE HER TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
?!

HEY, I HEARD A FRESH-MAN GIRL FAINTED.
Let's go see what's up.
MAYBE 'CAUSE SHE SAW HER FAVORITE TV STAR BY HER LOCKER! HA HA HA!
HEY, COME ON... WAKE UP!
SOME-BODY GET A TEACHER TO COME QUICK!
SAY SOMETHING!
YUNIKO!
Whoa, Ryu Eba!!
Why is he here?!

Oh my gosh
Noway! Why does HE want to carry her? Why HER?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS. I KNOW HER.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO TOUCH HER LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY?
.....
AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'M MAKI TATSUMI FROM CLASS 2B.

Hey, hey! Watch your hands, buddy!

ドキ
ギュ
WHAT? THE NURSE ISN'T EVEN HERE YET.
NFIRMAR

Where am I?
?!
Oh, the nurse's office.
RYU!
MMMNNN...
Oh, right! I found a weird note this morning in my mailbox.
I must've passed out right after I read it.
Where is that letter now??

!
I THINK YOU'RE KEEPING SOMETHING FROM ME.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING!
?!
I know that you're Akira Nanao's daughter and that Maiko Sakura has amnesia. And I have more than enough proof now to publish
YOU'RE THE ONE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME!
Oh, stop!
THIS AGAIN? I TOLD YOU I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING.
IF ANYTHING, I'M JUST TRYING TO HIDE HOW I REALLY FEEL ABOUT YOU.
I'M NOT KEEPING SECRETS FROM YOU.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD LATELY, AND SUDDENLY BEING FRIENDS WITH SANAE IS OVER THE TOP, DON'T YOU THINK?
Holy!!
You're that creep's daughter?!
Oh man, I can't believe I ever touched you! ACK!
All joking aside, Ryu is one serious Nanao-hater!

AH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
RYU, DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
If Ryu is with me now...
...does that mean he carried me here?
WEREN'T YOU FEELING WELL THIS MORNING?
YEAH. YOU SCARED ME BACK THERE.
Whoa, he startled me!
I won't tell Ryu about that letter...
BUT I'M FINE NOW. DON'T WORRY.
.....
I GUESS I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH SLEEP LATELY.

THEN I'LL SAY IT...
なにを!
SAYING "PLEASE" DOESN'T MAKE YOU ANY LESS OF A HORNBALL!!
It just makes you sound like a dork!
はぁはぁ
HOW ABOUT "LET ME SEX YOU UP BABY, PLEASE"? "PLEASE, BABY, PLEASE"?
YOU'VE GOT THAT PART WRONG, YUNIKO!
SO IF I DON'T HAVE SEX WITH YOU, THEN YOU'LL JUST GO OUT WITH SOME OTHER GIRL THEN. HUH?
I'LL JUST FIND MYSELF A REAL MAN LIKE AKIRA!
WHATEVER! I'M NOT CRYING ANYMORE!
PLUS, I KNOW IF I FLIRT WITH OTHER GIRLS, IT'LL MAKE YOU CRY...

THEN WHAT ARE YOU REALLY THINKING?
ISN'T THAT WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
OF COURSE NOT!
OH RIGHT. WHAT YOU'RE REALLY THINKING IS, "I WANNA SEX YOU UP, BABY"... BUT YOU HAVE TO HIDE THAT NOW, HUH?
AM I THAT KIND OF GUY?!!
IF I TELL YOU HOW I FEEL, WILL YOU ANSWER ME HONESTLY?
I'LL ANSWER YOU...
I love you.

WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND RYU EBA ?!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
YOU'RE NOT DATING HIM, ARE YOU?! NO WAY!
I SAW HIM CARRY YOU AWAY!
YOU TWO ARE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS NOW??
WE'RE COUSINS
NO ONE EVER MENTIONED THAT HE HAD A COUSIN OUR AGE!
NO WAY!
YOU ARE SOOOO LYING!
Tell us the truth!
RYU AND I ARE... ACK!
What is the DEAL with these groupies?!
Wha-?
ANSWER ME!
WAIT! HANG ON A SEC...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU TWO?

1-C
RYU
YOU'RE SO SELFISH, I SWEAR!
Oops.
But he's always mentioning sex. That's selfish of HIM.

SURE!
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
...ALONE. IS THAT OKAY?
Whoa! He reminds me of Akira Nanae. He's the spitting image!
Even his mannerisms are the same.
I'm sure he must know that he looks like Akira.
SO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK ME?
I've never seen a guy like him. It makes sense that he goes to this school though.

WHO THIS GIRL KNOWS DOESN'T CONCERN ANY OF YOU, NOW DOES IT?
THAT'S ENOUGH...
Who is this...?

CLASS 2B ...
...MAKI TATSUMI.
WHY... YOU!
WHAT KIND OF STUPID PRANK ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL ON ME HERE?!
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A PRANK.
BUT I SAW HOW YOU REACTED TO IT BACK THERE.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE DID YOU?

I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS...
YEAH...
?!
IN THE HALL.
WHERE DID YOU-?
IT'S YOURS, RIGHT?
It's that note!!
THIS IS...!!
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO WROTE THIS?!
But...
...HOW'D YOU KNOW THIS WAS MINE?!

SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT YOUR PARENTS WILL BE THERE.
YOU CAN HEAR WHAT'S BEEN KEPT SECRET FROM YOU.
IF YOU DON'T THINK I'M TELLING THE TRUTH...
What a narcissist!
SURELY YOU KNOW YOU'RE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY OF THEM...
AND RYU EBA'S ALREADY FALLEN FOR YOU, TOO, RIGHT?
TODAY AFTER SCHOOL, GO UP ON THE ROOF AND YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF.
Someone who knows about my parents?
I don't know what you're trying to pull but...
...next time you put your hands on me like that, I'll put my hands on that pretty face of yours. So watch it!
WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY, CAN'T YOU SEE TRACES OF AKIRA NANAE?
ESPECIALLY IN YOUR EYES...
YOU THINK YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON ME BECAUSE I'M A FAN OF AKIRA NANAE, HUH?
WELL, HOT GUYS ARE A DIME A DOZEN AT THIS SCHOOL, EVEN IF YOU DO LOOK LIKE AKIRA HIMSELF GO FIND ONE OF THOSE SUPERMODEL GIRLS TO MESS WITH INSTEAD OF ME!

HEY EBA! YOUR LITTLE LADY IS HERE TO SEE YOU!
Eba, grow up, will ya! We know you can ACT like an adult... (At least up to 28!)
Hey, that hurt!
RYU !
UM... I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME AFTER SCHOOL.
He still seems upset about this morning.
WHAT ?
Hey, hey THAT girl, huh?
SORRY, BUT I'M TOO BUSY TO MESS AROUND.
Well, you're obviously skipping the next class. We'll write you an excuse note, dude! Good luck!

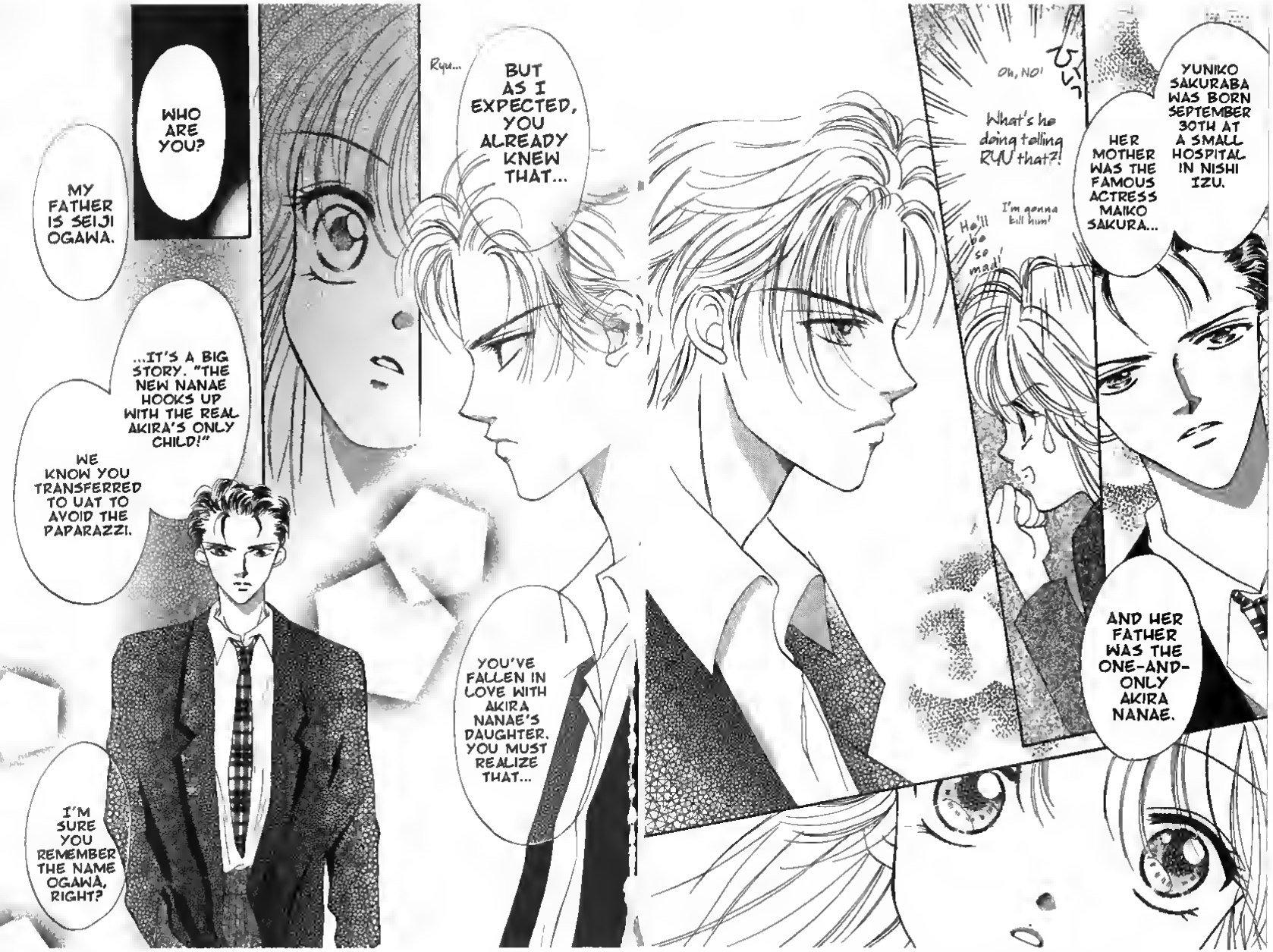
EBA! DUDE, I NEED YOU TO TAKE NOTES FOR ME WHILE I'M GONE.
2 — E
HEY, I'M LEAVING EARLY TODAY FOR A PHOTO SHOOT. CAN SOMEBODY TAKE NOTES FOR ME WHILE I'M OUT?
GIRLS ARE WAY BETTER AT THAT KIND OF THING, MAN...
But this is an all-guys class!
IS MORISAKI OUT AGAIN TODAY?!
HE SAYS HIS FACE STILL HASN'T CLEARED UP YET.
ARE YOU KIDDING? SO HE'S SKIPPING OUT AGAIN?!
What a lame excuse!
C'MON, SOMEBODY HELP ME OUT HERE!
OH YEAH? SO HE'S A VIRGIN?
That explains the guy being so moody about it.
FOR REAL! I THINK HE'S ONLY GOTTEN TO FIRST BASE WITH HER ANYWAY
DUDE, IS SHE REALLY WORTH ALL THIS DRAMA ?!
What's up with THAT?!
GIVE IT UP.
HE WON'T LISTEN TO ANYBODY EXCEPT THAT GIRL.

I should've realized I'd be able to find out what I was and stand on my own, though.
LOOK, LOOK!
After all, I am a lone that I don't need anybody.
All right then
Some-one is there!

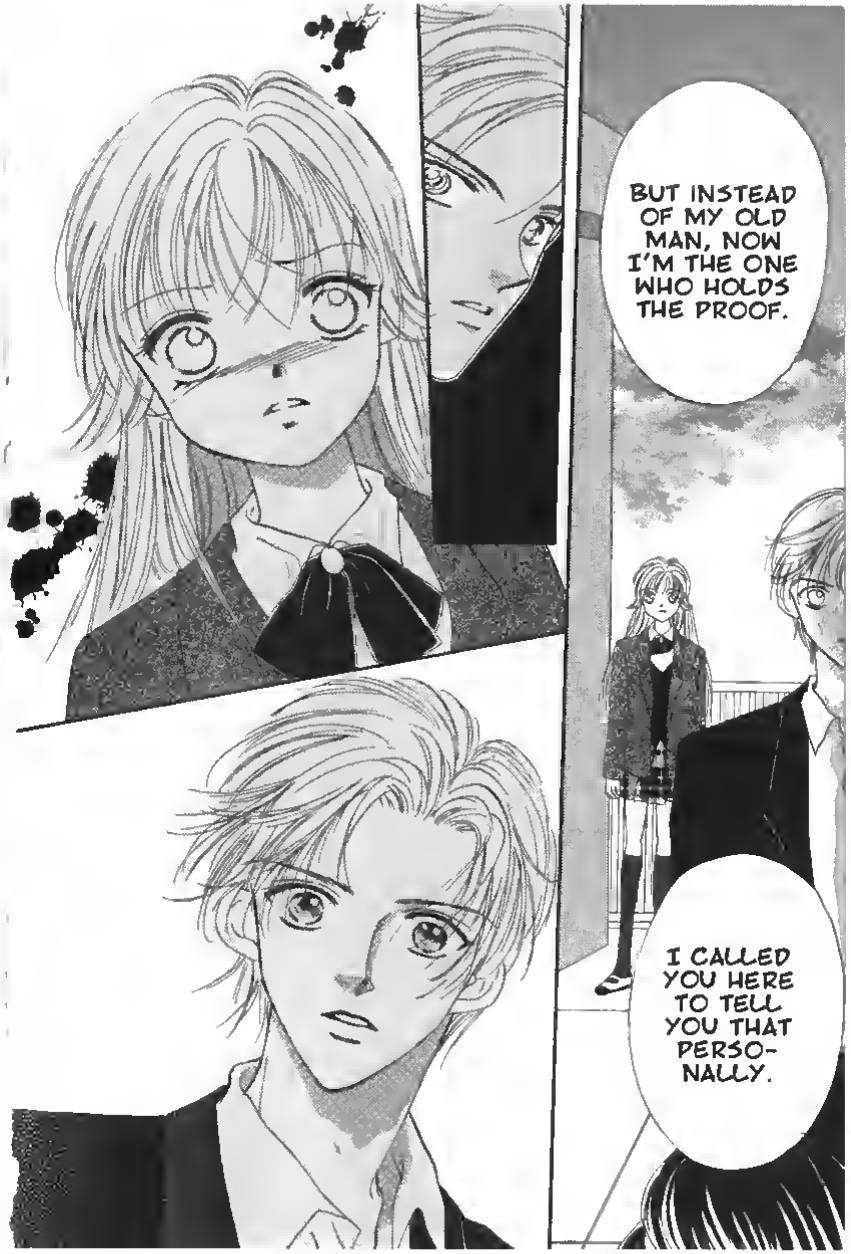
I wanted him to be with me when I go up to face that guy after school..
OH... OKAY, THEN.
FORGET IT. BYE.
.....
...but screw him! I'll be fine on my own!!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU KNOW YUNIKO'S SECRET?
MAKI NATSUMI, WAS IT?
It's that guy!
HAVEN'T YOU LOOKED INTO IT?
YOU'RE STILL PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW?
IN THAT CASE, I WONDER IF YOU REALLY DO KNOW WHO SHE IS.
What are those guys talking about?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
What's Ryu doing here with him?
YOU TOLD ME TO COME UP TO THE ROOF AFTER SCHOOL, REMEMBER ?!
ADMIT YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YUNIKO SAKURABA, SINCE YOU DID COME UP HERE AFTER ALL...

It's Ryu!
What's he doing?
Did he come up here to find me?!
RYU?


WHO ARE YOU?
MY FATHER IS SEIJI OGAWA.
...IT'S A BIG STORY. "THE NEW NANAE HOOKS UP WITH THE REAL AKIRA'S ONLY CHILD!"
WE KNOW YOU TRANSFERRED TO UAT TO AVOID THE PAPARAZZI.
I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OGAWA, RIGHT?
Ryu...
BUT AS I EXPECTED, YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT...
YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH AKIRA NANAE'S DAUGHTER. YOU MUST REALIZE THAT...
Oh, NO!
What's he doing telling RYU that?!
I'm gonna kill him!
He'll be so mad!
HER MOTHER WAS THE FAMOUS ACTRESS MAIKO SAKURA...
YUNIKO SAKURABA WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 30TH AT A SMALL HOSPITAL IN NISHI IZU.
AND HER FATHER WAS THE ONE-AND-ONLY AKIRA NANAE.

YUNIKO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!
YUNIKO!
ASK RYU. HE CAN TELL YOU THE REST.
YOU PUNK!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!


BUT INSTEAD OF MY OLD MAN, NOW I'M THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE PROOF.
I CALLED YOU HERE TO TELL YOU THAT PERSO-NALLY.

Can that man really be... my father?!
THE REAL REASON EVERYONE AT UAT CARES SO MUCH ABOUT ME...
THE REASON I'VE FELT SO MANY DIFFERENT FEELINGS FROM AKIRA EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
IF... AKIRA NANAE REALLY WAS MY FATHER... THAT WOULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. BUT...

I CAN'T BELIEVE... YOU AND SANAE WERE HIDING...SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT FROM ME.
IS IT REALLY TRUE, RYU?
THE BIG STORY EVERYONE'S TRYING TO GET...

COMING SOON

WILD ACT

VOLUME THREE

Naw that Yuniko has learned Akira Nanae cauld be her real father, she tries to come to terms with the truth. Once Ryu goes away ta promate his latest mavie, Yunika has time to be alone with her thoughts. She decides she must accept the truth and mave an with her life. In fact, she decides she's finally ready to ga all the way with her new lave...but is she truly prepared ta take things ta the next level?! As she's mulling that aver, Yuniko continues to try to establish a relatianship with her mother...but she still doesn't remember her. Meanwhile, Maki is still baund and determined ta dig up concrete evidence that Akira is Yunika's father so he can sell it ta the tablaids. Will Yunika and Ryu be able ta stop Maki in time?!

Manga
Action/Romance
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Wild Act

Freeze Frame

Yuniko discovers that her mother has amnesia and doesn't remember her! Yuniko is devastated, but she finds surprising comfort in Ryu's company as their relationship starts to change. When the school year starts, all Yuniko wants to do is stay out of the spotlight and in the shadows so she can continue collecting Akira's things. But this is when her real trouble begins, for an unscrupulous photographer plans to frame Ryu in a big scandal and only she can steal back the evidence to save him!

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